

THE

AMERICAN FARMER,



SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL JOURNALS OF THE DAY.

"O FORTUNATOS NIMIUM SUA SI BONA NORINT
"AGRICOLAS." Virg.

Vol. III.

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WORK FOR JUNE.

In the opening of summer, as is our custom, we desire to hold converse with our readers, with the view of jogging their minds with regard to a few of the many things they ought to do this month. But before we do so we would be indulged in a few remarks upon the subject of European affairs,—and we are free to confess, that we find great difficulty at coming to any definite opinion as to the effect the Revolutions in Europe will have upon the prices of the agricultural productions of our country. If there were any well grounded hopes that the people of Europe would, after putting down those monarchical governments which have so long eaten up their substance, settle down quietly and peacefully in well regulated Republics, there then would be ground, work on which to form opinions. But it appears to us to be utterly impracticable, in the present aspect of affairs in Europe, to say what a day, a week, or a month, may not bring forth. Should the struggle for liberty be of long continuance, the withdrawal of husbandmen, from the pursuits of rural industry to the strife of arms, may seriously operate to decrease the products of agriculture in that quarter—in which event, *America* may become the store-house from which breadstuffs and provisions will be drawn, and as a necessary consequence, prices will be enhanced in proportion to the demand thus to be created.—Should things, however, speedily settle down on a peaceful and firm basis, we cannot perceive that any considerable portion of our surplus produce, beyond the requirements of ordinary years, will be needed in Europe.

With these few remarks we shall now direct attention to certain things which should be done

ON THE FARM.

Ruta Bagas.—This excellent variety of turnip should be sown from the 20th of this month, to the 10th of July. It delights in a deep fertile loam, which should be twice ploughed and harrowed, so as

to be put into fine tilth. They require plenty of manure, and succeed best when cultivated in drills, though they may be raised, and will yield fair crops when sown broadcast, provided the ground be heavily manured, thoroughly prepared, and the plants be thinned out to stand about 6 or 8 inches apart, and be kept clean from weeds. The best plan to raise a large crop is, however, as we have before premised, to cultivate them in drills.

The ground being prepared as above directed, furrows must be struck off 27 inches apart, 4 inches deep, north and south. In the bottoms of these drills strew about 3 inches of compost, then cover by returning the soil into the furrow on the top of the compost, then make a drill one-inch deep, drill in the seed, and after covering run a roller over the ridge, so as to press the earth down and bring it into contact with the seed.

Preparation of the Seed.—Soak them for 12 or 24 hours in fish oil, then as you are about to sow them, drain off the oil, and mix the seed with either plaster or ashes, so as to separate and make them easy of being sown.

Manure.—The following ingredients will make an excellent compost for this variety of turnips, and the quantities named will answer for an acre of ground: 10 double horse cart loads rotten stable, cow-yard manure, or the same quantity of woods' mould, 5 bushels of bone-dust, 5 bushels of ashes, 1 bushel of plaster, and 1 bushel of salt.

The whole to be well mixed together, and suffered to remain in pie 2 weeks, then to be reshovelled, and remain 2 weeks more in pie, when it will be in a condition to be drilled in.

When the plants first come up, they should have fish oil sprinkled over them,—the following morning, while the dew is on the plants, they should be dusted with a mixture of equal quantities of plaster and ashes. This latter operation should be repeated three or four successive mornings.

When the plants get two or three inches high, thin them out so as to stand 6 inches asunder in the rows, and weed them with the hoe. Repeat the weeding in two weeks, and run the cultivator through the middles. In two weeks more give them another working with the cultivator, and relieve the plants of any weeds about them with the hoe and hand, and you may lay them by under the confident expectation of garnering a heavy product.

In another part of our journal we have an article upon this subject, and we leave it to you to make your election between it and this, as to the proper mode of culture and most eligible compost, assuring you that either will ensure you a handsome yield.

Having prescribed a compost for the culture of this root, we will further observe, that, if you cannot conveniently get the materials named, 20 loads of any manure whether it be that of the stable or cow yards, if well rotted, will answer, but that you cannot well omit the application of five or ten bushels of ashes to the acre.

Corn Crops.—Do not omit to keep your corn fields clear of weeds and grass, and the ground open, by the free use of the cultivator. After the first ploughing, were we in your place, we would not put a plough in the ground. If your corn was planted on a clover ley, every ploughing will disturb the sod, and cause a disastrous loss of nutritive gases, so also will it be the case with any manure which you may return to the surface to be exhaled by the sun. The object in ploughing in the manure, is to place it in such position that it may be readily found by the roots of the plants; but if you invert its position and place it on the surface, that object, to a very great extent, will be defeated. Therefore, keep your manure in place below, keep the weeds and grass down with the cultivator, the soil open to the refreshing influence of the atmosphere, and the fertilizing effects of the dew and rain, and you need not fear the result.

Lucerne.—The inquiry having been made of us, whether lucerne can be safely sown thus late in the season? we answer that we believe it may be sown as late as the 15th of this month, provided millet seed be sown with it to protect it from the sun; but that in no event should any one venture upon its culture at so late a period of the year, without giving to the ground the most thorough preparation. The ground to be appropriated should undergo at least two ploughings and harrowings,—and it would be the better of three. The first ploughing should be a deep one, the harrow should follow the plough, so as to encourage the coming up of weeds—when these come up and cover the ground, the manure should be broadcasted over the land, should have a bushel of plaster to the acre sown over it as spread, and then be ploughed in about 4 inches in depth. This done the ground should be harrowed, when the *Lucerne* should be sown at the rate of 20 pounds to the acre,

then sow at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ a bushel of millet seed per acre, and harrow both in *very lightly* with a light harrow, and roll.

Both *lucerne* and millet require heavy manuring, and not less than 20 double horse cart loads of enriching manure per acre should be applied, where luxuriant production is either expected or desired. The land, too, should be limed or ashed, as the former belongs to a tribe of plants that require both these minerals. The *Lucerne*, if grown in a fertile soil, and top-dressed at intervals of two years, and kept clean of weeds, will bear cutting three or four times a year, for seven years, which fact alone will indicate that no pains should be spared in the preparation of the ground for its reception, and in its subsequent management. Any *lucerne* that may have been sown at the proper time in spring, should be weeded whenever the ground may become foul, as *lucerne* plants struggle but indifferently well in their infancy with such intruders.

The best method of cultivating *Lucerne* is in *drills*, the drills to be made a foot apart and an inch deep. This mode of culture enables the culturist to weed and keep the plants free from all such incumbrances during the first year, which should be strictly attended to. When thus cultivated, the seed should be drilled in in the month of *April*, or in *early May*. A patch of this grass, grown on fertile land, and as we have before premised, periodically top-dressed, will, we feel satisfied yield as much again hay as any other variety we are acquainted with, except *Gama* grass. Were we to commence its cultivation, and adopt the broadcast plan of culture, we should sow it with *Perennial Rye Grass*, as in that event the hay would be greatly improved, while such mixture would relieve the cattle to which it might be fed green, from all apprehension of danger of hoven.—In curing *Lucerne* for hay, after a few hours exposure in the swarth, it should be put into cocks—these should be small the first day, and increased the subsequent one; by such process, the leaves are prevented from falling off, while the color is maintained much greener than when the grass is cured altogether under the action of the sun in the swarth. By the way, every planter and farmer should possess himself of a *drilling machine*, as it is a great husbander of time, which is the equivalent of money, and it ensures much greater accuracy in the distribution of the seed than can possibly be arrived at by the hand.

Potatoes.—If you have not already planted your main crop of fall potatoes, you should avail yourself of the present moment to get them in, during the first week of this month, as a chance for early maturing is, perhaps, the only security against the rot. Tho' much ink has been shed, and hundreds of suggestions made, as to the cause of the disease, all that is certain about it, is, that its effects have proved disastrous in every country where the root is cultivated; in some to the extent of producing famine, with its

concomitants, starvation, and disease unto death.—That this lamentable vegetable affliction has been brought about for wise purposes, all who believe in the mercy of Providence must concede. What those purposes are, must remain a mystery; sufficient for us all should it be, that He who hath visited it upon humanity has done so in his own good pleasure, and the consciousness that such is the case, should arm every tiller of the earth with that calm resolution to the Omniscient will, which makes obedience a pleasure, and converts the direst scourge into a blessing. We invoke all, therefore, notwithstanding the prospect of garnering what they may plant Yests upon so uncertain a tenure, to proceed in their labors in a spirit of christian resignation, in order that they may place themselves in a position to merit, though they may be disappointed in receiving, what, to human thought, may appear to be the reward of well directed toils; for of a truth, no visitation ever yet proceeded from the same high source, but had some beneficent object in view, and was ultimately intended to effectuate good. Let us then, in the hope that the mission may have been fulfilled, go to work at once, prepare our ground, and commit our potatoes to the earth.

With respect to the mode of culture, we refer to the able remarks of "*A Patuxent Farmer*," page 317 of the April number, and to the following paragraph from the *New York Tribune*, based upon the authority of the Hon. D. W. Naill, of Frederick county, than whom our State does not contain a more enlightened farmer or better man:

Straw for the Potato Rot.—Mr. Skinner read, at the Farmer's Club, on Tuesday evening, an extract of a letter from D. W. Naill, of Maryland, stating that a gentleman of Frederick Co., Md., last year procured some sound potatoes for planting, from Mr. Naill. Mr. N. had just been informed by that gentleman, that he manured and prepared his land and planted the sets 3 to 4 inches deep, covering them with drills, about 18 inches apart, placing the tubers about one foot asunder in the drills, and immediately gave the whole surface a covering of straw from three to four inches in thickness. The covering of straw prevented the growth of weeds and superseded the necessity of cultivation. The result was an excellent crop of sound potatoes, so far as they were covered.—Those left uncovered suffered with the rot.

And we will close this branch of our month's talk, by stating, as our opinion, that where straw cannot be obtained, pine-shatters will answer in its stead.

Drilling of Wheat.—As this method of sowing wheat is getting into favor, we deem it to be our duty to remind wheat growers of the fact thus early, in order that they may have time to make the necessary arrangements to procure drills to enable them to put in the next crop in that way. Wheat thus put in, is said not to be so liable to being winter-killed as when sown broadcast, and, to a certain extent, not so subject to the Rust, owing to the free circulation of the air afforded by the open spaces between the drills. With regard to the truth of these opinions,

we know nothing, and can only judge of their accuracy by the plausibleness of the reasons assigned, having had no experience ourself in such mode of culture.

Millet.—Should you be apprehensive of a short crop of timothy for your horses, you may find a very excellent substitute in millet. Prepare your ground thoroughly by heavy manuring, deep ploughing and harrowing; then sow from $\frac{1}{2}$ a bushel to 3 pecks of millet seed per acre, harrow it in very lightly and roll the ground with a good heavy roller, and you may rest satisfied of a good crop of grass, which should be cut when the grain first begins to turn yellow at the top of the head, and should be cured in cocks.

Bets, Carrots and Parsnips.—The seed of these excellent roots may be sown any time up to the tenth of this month, the earlier the better—the crop will not, of course, be so large as if they had been put in early last month, but still they will remunerate for labor bestowed and secure to your stock a resource of succulent food. For the mode of their culture we refer to our April number.

Rust in Wheat.—As there is always danger of the wheat crop becoming injured by the rust, we desire thus early to impress this truth upon our patrons' minds—that where wheat may be attacked with the rust, it is always best to cut it early.

Buckwheat.—Every farmer and planter should have his patch of buckwheat, although he may not sell a bushel of it, as there is no such thing as substituting those delicious cakes which make the country breakfast so inviting in winter, by those made from the flour of any other grain. As an acre thus appropriated, will give a supply for a large family, and it should be, as it doubtless is, a source of pleasure; nay of delight, to every husband and father to contribute towards the comforts of his family, that acre will, of course, be so appropriated.

Curing Hay.—All grass will make the better hay, when, after remaining a few hours in the swarth, it may be put into cocks.

Milch Cows.—Your pastures are now possibly good and your cows are in good condition—but you should not forget, that the months of August and September, generally speaking, burn up the grass and leave your milch cows without a sufficiency of green food. Recollecting this fact, if you study your own interest, you will, early this month, manure an acre of ground liberally, plough and pulverize it well, and sow it in corn broadcast. An acre well put in will give you green food enough to carry ten or twelve milch cows through the trying months we have named, and ensure them good condition and flowing udders. It would be best to sow one-half of the acre as early as possible in this month, and the other half after a lapse of ten days.

Pumpkins may be planted the first week in this month, if care be observed in manuring and preparing the ground. The seed should be soaked six or

twelve hours in warm water to encourage early germination—and in the event of dry weather, the hills must be watered. So soon as the pumpkins come up strew a mixture of soot and plaster over them. Do this early in the morning while the plants are wet with dew, and repeat it three or four mornings in succession.

Accumulation of Manure.—Seize every opportunity to collect materials for making manure, and suffer none that may be in your yard to be destroyed by the sun or wasted by the rains—a covering of earth will prevent the first, while a proper dish-like shaped yard will obviate the latter.

Harvest Tools.—Examine these, and have all necessary repairs made at once. If your stock is insufficient, go, without delay, and purchase more, and bear in mind while purchasing, that the best implements are always cheapest.

Harvest Drink.—Ten gallons of cold water, 1 gallon of molasses, 1 qt. of vinegar, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of ginger, well stirred together, make a refreshing drink—and while upon this subject we will remark, that *harvest hands should be generously fed.*

Orchards.—These should be looked through and have all caterpillar nests destroyed. The trunks of peach trees near to, and just under, the ground, should be examined for worms, which should be killed with the point of a pen knife or piece of wire sharpened for the purpose. This done it would be well to paint the bodies of the tree down to the earth with the mixture, as recommended last month. If you have trees which are prevented, through luxuriance of growth, from yielding fruit, open the ground around the roots and cut through a few of the largest descending ones—be careful to smooth the wound with a chisel.

Fall Turnips.—It is too early to sow these; but it is not too early to give the ground you mean to grow them in the first ploughing and harrowing—neither is it too early to advise you to provide the manure. You should make all your arrangements so as to be ready to sow your turnips from the 25th of July up to the first week in August, the nearer the first named period the greater certainty will there be of your success. If you put into compost equal quantities of cow manure and mould, at the rate of 20 double-horse cart loads for each acre, and mix with that quantity 5 bushels of ashes and 1 of plaster, shovel it over once in two weeks between this and the time of using it, you cannot well fail to make a good crop of turnips, unless the plants should be destroyed by the fly, which will not be the case if you take our advice, soak your seed in fish oil, sprinkle it over the plants when they first come up, and dust them with soot and plaster. This is troublesome we know, but not so much so as to deter one from making an effort to save one's crop.

Draining.—All wet lands should be drained—by such process their capacity for production is greatly increased, while the quality of the crops grown on them is much improved.

VALUE OF MARL AND IMPORTANCE OF MARLING.

We invite attention to the subjoined paper upon these highly interesting subjects. Believing, as we do, that most worn-out lands may be brought to fertility by generous doses of marl, aided by barn-yard and stable manures, if clover and plaster are used as adjuncts, we are gratified that our correspondent has brought the matter so directly home to the bosoms and business of his peninsular friends. But they are not the only ones who may be benefitted by his suggestions and advice, as marl, in different forms, is to be found in most of the Western Shore counties of our State, as also in the entire range of States from New Jersey to those washed by the Mississippi.—Virginia, North, and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, and other States south and southwest are rich in this great resource of fertility, so that the article below will suit as well abroad as at home, and we trust will be availed of. Where *peat* or *marsh mud* and *marl* are to be found upon the same estate, what an abundant resource for a compost is to be found in these materials. Twenty cart loads of peat or marsh mud mixed with 200 bushels of marl in fall, and suffered to lie in pie all winter would make an acre of ground as rich as any farmer need desire to have it. We would rather have it than an equal quantity of the best barn-yard or stable manure.

MARL AND MARLING.

CHURCH HILL, May 3d, 1848.

To the Editor of the *American Farmer*.

MR. EDITOR:—An inquiry in a recent number of the *American Farmer*, relative to mode of application, and effect of Marl, induces me to offer the following remarks, comprising my reflections and observations on this subject. It is a source of surprise to me, that this theme—a theme of so much importance—which but a short time since, commanded a leading position in every agricultural journal, is so entirely neglected in the journals of the present. It certainly is not assumed, that its claims, in an agricultural and philosophical bearing are canvassed to a ne plus ultra, and that further efforts must be futile and nugatory. There may be, and no doubt there are, some, whose information on this subject is ample for practical purposes; but the majority of us are not of this fortunate few; and we will hold ourselves much indebted for an occasional editorial on this subject. The probable origin of those vast beds of shells, has ever been to me, a question of great interest. The lapse of time that covers their accumulation, reaches, in all probability, far beyond the common conception of the epoch of the creation. Some there are who maintain that they were thrown into their present position, as sand is thrown by the Sahara winds, by a mighty rush of waters in the diluvial tempest of the Earth. Others, that a great convulsion raised the ocean's bed and depressed the mountains to its present bed. And some again that they were gradually collected from the rivers by the aboriginal inhabitants of this continent. It appears to me, much more probable, that time, unaided by any unnatural phenomena has affected their accumulation. There can be no reasonable doubt, as we conceive, but that salt water once occupied their present sites, which

have been gradually filled, as we find them, by the alluvial depositors from the streams that traverse their beds.

In contemplating the process nature employed in effecting their accumulation, we are led to believe that a vast period of time intervenes between their origin and the present. The first generation of shell fish which occupied the first or lower strata of shells we can with much probability assume, from the teachings of naturalists, to have lived thirty years. Granting this assumption, the depths of the beds and the increase in their height which each strata effects on fair calculation will carry us back in the vista of the past so far that numbers will not cover the years. It does not comport with my design, in the present article, to adduce and digest the evidence, that could be collected in support of this hypothesis, and I shall content myself with stating the convictions of its truth, based upon the ample evidence that must force itself upon the observation of every one who is familiar with the features of the fossil beds. There is also abundant evidence to show that many centuries, perhaps hundreds of centuries, intervened between the completion of their accumulation and the present age. At some points, there are ten feet of sand gravel and rock of tertiary formation, of a hundred pounds magnitude, incumbent on them; which, as any one would conceive, evinces a great lapse of years. The topography of shell marl beds, in all general points, does not differ. All the beds whose description I have seen, are so analogous, that I do not suppose there could be any interest felt by any of our marl possessors in representing a minute detail of their location, appearance, &c. Suffice it to say, that the beds, which I have the good fortune to possess, underlay, to an unknown distance, the bottom and side-banks of a ravine, extending to tide-water, a distance of two miles, following the course of the rivulet that traverses it. This ravine where it is on my premises, is from a hundred to four hundred yards wide, terminated by a bank on either side twenty feet higher than the rivulet's bed. There is about a hundred acres of this low land on my farm, and marl has been detected, at all points, varying in its depth from the surface, from six inches to three feet; I infer from the velocity with which the stream moves, that the surface of the marl, at the highest point detected, is at least twenty feet above tide-water. It is evident, sir, that the top-surfaces of these beds were in their day, covered with salt water.— This must be admitted, if we credit the views of Naturalists, who declare that these shells are the shells of salt-water fish now extinct. Tide-water in the ocean, must then have been much higher than at present, to have covered the tops of these beds; (which was necessary to the existence of the living fish;) or the other horn of the dilemma, that this peninsula by some process, has been elevated there twenty feet. The surface of the marl is undulating; at some points it is two feet below, and at others three feet above, the bed of the above mentioned stream. In forming pits in this ravine, or meadow bottom, the first or top stratum we go through, is alluvial mould; then a stratum six inches thick of yellow marl, or of green or black gravel, which latter is very hard to penetrate and has every appearance of having been washed by a stream of considerable magnitude and velocity, the smaller pebbles being larger than a partridge's eggs. In many instances we meet with stones, which on the upland are very scarce, weighing a hundred pounds, of a green cast externally, but when broken prove to be a tertiary

formation. The next is blue, with no appearance of shell, for six or eight inches; this is very fine and adhesive, sticking to the shovel with great pertinacity and has a very soft and unctuous feel; then we come to the shell-marl, which for twelve or eighteen inches, is not thickly studded with shell, the greater part of the marl being of impalpable shell. As we descend, the shells become more numerous, until we reach a depth of eight or ten feet, where only a small portion of sand, (perhaps ten per cent.) is mingled with them and are much larger and firmer than at top. We have not attained a depth of over twenty feet, and the only difference in the appearance of the marl at this depth and the surface, is as above stated, that the shells are larger, finer and more numerous. We seldom go down more than ten feet, on account of the water that oozes through the sides of the pits becoming troublesome at this depth. We were carried by curiosity on one occasion, twenty feet, in hopes of finding the lower terminus, but at this depth, we saw no more probability of finding it than at a depth of ten feet. To the Geologist, this must be a point of primary importance; doubtless, he would have procured an auger to fathom its depth. To us however, the important object is to put the most loads we can, each day upon our upland, and deep delving is incompatible with this interest.

It is highly probable, that marl abounds on most of the farms of this shore which border on the Chesapeake; and on the rivers that make into this bay, as far as the tide makes up them; mere casualty has detected it on many, and doubtless it could be detected on many more, at a trifling expense of time and money. A dread of the great trouble and expense, which most persons imagine to be inseparable accompaniments to the mining of marl, in conjunction with a deficient appreciation of its intrinsic value as a renovator of exhausted lands, induces the majority of those who have it on their farms to forego the great increase of crops that would inevitably follow its judicious application. Like all other departments of farming operations, the mining of marl, for want of common skill and attention is a sinking business, but there is not the most remote danger of this, with any body of marl I have seen, when directed with ordinary judgment and prudence. Sixty is the average number of loads we get out per day (10 bushels in each load) with a man to load and a boy to drive two yoke of oxen, when it is not drawn over six hundred yards. This is the average exclusive of the time lost in "topping" the pits and making roads. If we include all hindrances of this kind the average falls between 35 and 100 loads. Our first care is to prepare a firm road with an easy grade, from the marl bed, to the summit of the hill or bank which bounds the ravine on either side. Then, if at the point we commence there is nothing more incumbent than alluvial mould, we go down to a level with the stream, and no deeper, to obviate the trouble of bailing the water which percolates through the marl. When we have gone over 20 to 30 square yards in this way we commence sinking small pits 4 or 6 feet square, and sink them from 4 to 8 feet as the water permits. A partition wall is left between each one to keep the water of each pit to itself. I find my sheet full, sir without a good stopping place. I will give you another soon in continuation. Respectfully,

AN EASTERN SHOREMAN.

DISEASES OF CATTLE.—We call attention to the advertisements in our columns this month of work on the diseases of Domestic Animals.

SAVING CLOVER SEED.

NEW OXFORD, Adams Co., Pa. }
 April 17th, 1848. }

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SIR:—Since you wish information on saving clover seed, by a call in your last number from "A Subscriber," I will state the method pursued by me, as I am always willing to communicate to all seeking for information. My plan is, when it is fully ripe, to take a common grain cradle and lower the first finger as close to the scythes as can be at the point, and then take a linen cloth and stitch it to the two lower fingers, and then you will cradle two swarths together; by this plan you will cut the tops, or more if you wish, and by keeping your scythe in order you can cut it very clean; and any hand that can mow grass can also cut cloverseed. After it is cut, you will let it lay one or two weeks to season; in dry weather it may lay a long time; and when it is well seasoned, you will gather it in small heaps with a common hand rake in the morning, when the dew is on, otherwise it will shell; then it can be removed in the after part of the day, or may remain for some time in dry weather—you will then haul it to the barn or stack-yard, if you wish to stack it—my plan is to stack it 25 by 12 feet in length and breadth, and about 10 feet high—I then take long straw, and lay it with top ends out to project half its length over, and then build on and batten in to close the stack—every load a course of straw, and so on gradually with straw and seed, till you bring it to a point—the gable end I generally build perpendicular, then cover the top well with straw and heavy poles, and by the first rain, beat down the straw with your rake, and you will have a complete stack that will stand the storm till you have time to thrash it. You may thrash it on a common spike machine, by having a good shaker to it, but I generally thrash it off with the flail in the winter—shake off the straw with hand-forks, and rake it clean with hand rake; the better it is raked the easier it will clean on the common spike machine. I have cleaned as high as 18 bushels of seed per day with six horses in the short days of winter.

I will now conclude by telling you about the clover seed "*Stripper*," as it is termed by us, to which your correspondent refers, as being "shaped like a comb, and dragged by a horse." We have several kinds in our county—some run on sled runners, and others on wheels—they are not made by any particular manufacturer, but generally by farmers themselves, according to their own plan—but in my opinion, they are not calculated for large farmers, or for getting seed for market at these low prices; for they are too laborious in stripping, and then it requires a large barn floor for drying it before you can store it away, otherwise it will heat and must, and injure the seed, and cannot be thrashed clean; and therefore I will submit the above to your consideration, as also the result of the trial of my neighbor Diehl. Some years ago D. and I went some miles and borrowed a clover stripper, with the intention, if it answered the purpose, to get one made in company. Mr. D. stripped four acres and sent for me to see it work—I mounted the machine, and took the chair, when he handed me the scraper to scrape off the clover heads, and told his boy to move on slowly; but I tell you it soon raised me off my seat, and it took all my power to clean, and made the sweat roll in streams, for my neighbor was determined to make me go one round for trial—but that round put me out of the notion of

going into a co-partnership for any more stripping of clover seed. The above is left to your option, to dispose of as you may think proper. I now conclude by wishing success to the American Farmer and its contributors.

Yours, Respectfully,
 J. L. NOEL.

PLASTER MILLS.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SIR:—The undersigned will be obliged to you, for a description of the plaster mills, as used by individual farmers. Will an old mill stone, one foot thick by four feet diameter, to run in a stone-paved circle on its edge, grind plaster, after being broken up, with sufficient success to make it an object to erect one? Is unground plaster sold by long or short ton?

I sent you a brief communication some time since, in which I stated I had screwed on the end of the iron rod of my threshing power a gouge auger (2 inch brace bit) by which I had bored fence posts with ease and expedition, the posts being placed on a sliding frame, which was pressed up and pulled back as required by upright hand levers.

If the small matters are to be crowded out, by the master productions, *so mote it be*.

Do let us have another Mexican invasion of "A Learner," though Bragg's battery may be brought to bear upon him, under command of Col. Capron. The superior armament of a victorious Taylor does not prove that Mexicans are not valiant soldiers.

I am, respectfully,
 W. W. REED.

Queen Ann's county, Md. April 15, 1848.

Reply by the Editor of the American Farmer.

1.—Not feeling myself competent to answer the question as to the Plaster Mill, we placed our correspondent's question in the hands of a skillful Mechanist, whose answer will be found below:

Dear Sir:—In reply to your inquiries I have to say, that, in my opinion, a stone to run on its edge on a paved circle, is not a good plan. The reason is, that such a contrivance would grind or crush but very little plaster in a day—and leave it so coarse that much of its effects would be lost to the farmer. It is well known to observing farmers, that the *finer* plaster is ground the more prompt and efficient is its action—to render its benefits full and perfect, it should be reduced to an *impalpable powder*.

The mode of preparing plaster, is to grind it *as fine as possible*, and to effect this, is by dressing it with French Burr stones, running in the same way as those used in flouring or corn mills.

The probable cost of such fixtures would be as follows:

| | |
|--|-------|
| A Crusher to prepare the stones, | \$120 |
| 1 pair of French Burr stones, 2½ ft. diameter, | 175 |
| | \$295 |

A crusher and mill of this kind, driven by a power equal to six horses, would grind from 4 to 6 bushels per hour, if properly attended to.

Yours, respectfully,
 WM. BROWN.

May 5th, 1848.

P. S.—In grinding plaster it is customary to use about a peck of sharp grit sand to cleanse and prevent the stones from becoming smooth and choking.

2.—Plaster is sold by long weight—2240 lbs. to the ton.

3.—The communication to which our correspondent alludes, was never received by us, or, at all events, we have not the slightest recollection of its reception, and we beg to assure him that had we received it, we should have been pleased to insert it, as we are every thing else which tends to facilitate the operations of farmers, and especially so with contrivances which lessen labor in one so important as that of fencing. In the intimation, therefore, that he makes, that we are disposed to "crowd out small matters" to make room for "master productions," he does us injustice, and we must be permitted to observe, that we do not look upon his plan for boring posts as a "small matter," as it has, from its simplicity and effectiveness, all those elements about it to entitle it to be ranked as a large "matter."

4.—The wish he expresses that the distinguished writers to whom he alludes, would resume their pens, has our hearty concurrence, and we trust the suggestion which he has made will induce them to nib their pens afresh, and again take the field. Contests such as theirs, are productive alike of pleasure and of profit to the entire agricultural community—the collisions between enlarged minds, on subjects so deeply interesting to the prosperity of our country, conducted as those distinguished gentlemen are capable of conducting them, and as they did conduct their last one, are eminently calculated to enlighten and instruct. To Col. C. we would say, that a very general desire prevails to hear from him upon the subject of *draining*—his experience and success has keenly awakened public curiosity to hear from him—and to "A Learner," we would remark, that the causes which operated during the winter to suspend operations are no longer in existence—a hint to the wise is sufficient.

COMPOST FOR WHEAT.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

Will you or some of your correspondents, be so kind as to inform me through the Farmer, or otherwise, what ingredients would be necessary to form a cheap and efficient compost, from straw of the present wheat crop, to be applied to wheat next October, and what quantity per acre, also the best mode of preparation, &c.? Compliance with the above will greatly oblige.

Enclosed I send you my subscription, and I certainly think that the dollar which I pay for the Farmer is more profitably expended than any other that I lay out during the year.

Snaky Ordinary, Va., April 27, 1848.

REPLY.—Take 6 loads of marsh mud, or the scrapings of roads, 10 hundred weight of the straw, (if cut so much the better) 10 bushels of lime, 1 bushel of plaster, and 5 bushels of ashes, and 2 bushels of bone dust, the finer ground the better—mix the whole well together, form it into a cone-like pie so as to turn the rain, every three or four weeks, between the

time of making and that of using it turn it over with shovels, so that the mixture of the several constituents may be perfected, and the decomposition of the straw be uniform. In first putting these matters together, if the earthy materials be dry, they must be moistened with water, or what would be better, a mixture of say 10 gallons of urine to three times that quantity of water. The above proportions are intended for an acre of ground, and we have no doubt would ensure a good crop of wheat.

✍ We should be thankful to any of our subscribers to suggest a better compost than the one above.

ACTION OF PLASTER UPON TOBACCO.

FRIENDSHIP, A. A. Co., Md. }
April 25th, 1848. }

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

I have frequently taken up my pen to give you a line or two about farm management in this portion of our State; having seen nothing in the Farmer from this immediate neighborhood; but am sorry to say that the desire to aid, must yield to incapability.

I am determined not to lay aside my "goose quill" this time, until I shall have asked your opinion as to the action of plaster upon tobacco.

Some of our oldest and most successful tobacco growers, are of opinion that plaster injures the quality of tobacco, that it promotes a large growth, but that it cures "dull," the leaves are thick and rough. Time of applying is the spring, when the field is set in clover, one to one and a half bushels to the acre, two years in succession, being the time the field is set in clover. Some apply about a teaspoonful to the hill just before and after the plants are set out. I have not been a tobacco grower long enough to form an opinion,—let me have yours if you please, which will set all doubts aside with me.

I have sent you a small sample of marl from my farm, of which I have inexhaustible beds or deposits—will it be worth hauling out to be applied to light land? Excuse the liberty I have taken.

Respectfully, yours,

J. D. CHILDS.

REPLIES.

1. That Plaster should promote a "large growth" in the tobacco plant we are not surprised, the attraction of aliment from the atmosphere, and the husbanding of that which may be in the soil, being the chief offices which it is intended it should, and which it does, in fact, perform. That power is imparted to the plaster by the sulphuric acid which comprises an essential portion of its constituent elements.—Plaster, in its aggregate form, consists in every 100 parts—of 33 parts lime, 46 parts sulphuric acid, and 21 parts water. Thus combined together, they form what is called gypsum or the sulphate of lime. Tho' united with lime, the sulphuric acid does not lose its power of affinity for other bodies, such as ammonia; that nutrient, though volatile, principle found alike in all animal and vegetable manures, and which gives to the manure pile the pungent smell which every farmer is made to inhale on going near it or upon entering his stable—and the same smell is found

in chamber-ley when stale—it is also in the air in the form of nitrogen, but as it floats there in a less concentrated form, its smell is not susceptible to the olfactory nerves, though it is nevertheless present in the air. The affinity which the sulphuric acid of Plaster has for these substances, constitutes the great element of its usefulness as an improver of the soil; it is the power which it possesses of attracting the nitrogen of the air, condensing it into its own body, and retaining it there, to be taken down by each succeeding rain into the earth, that clothes it with the capacity of increasing the growth of clover, and other kindred plants, in such a disproportionate ratio to the quantity applied. It is this power, that enables it to give to the tobacco plant the large growth spoken of by our correspondent; but we are very certain that *Plaster* contains nothing that is calculated to make that plant "cure dull," and we suspect any dullness which tobacco grown on plastered lands may have, is owing to the manner of curing, and not to the plaster, for neither *lime* nor *sulphuric acid* could by any chemical action whatsoever on the constituent elements of Tobacco, produce any such effect. Now let us see of what Tobacco consists:

| | |
|--|-------|
| 100 parts of ashes of Leaf Tobacco contain | |
| Of Potash | 30.67 |
| Of Lime and Magnesia | 33.36 |
| Sulphate of Lime (Plaster) | 5.60 |
| Chloride of Sodium (common salt) | 5.95 |
| Phosphates | 6.03 |
| Silica, (sand) | 18.39 |

100.00

Here then, we find that plaster forms upwards of 5½ per centum of the weed itself, and hence it is fair to infer, that that which comprises an important part of any *whole*, cannot exert a deleterious effect upon that whole. It will be perceived, that both *Potash* and *Lime* are the most important, nay vital, mineral bodies in the composition of tobacco, and we should be willing to suggest, that there may be a deficiency of each of these substances in the lands whereon this "dull" curing tobacco grew—and, therefore, that both *lime* and *ashes*, in some form should be applied—the calcareous principle of *lime* may be found in *marl*, where *lime* is not attainable, and the *potash* may be substituted by unleached *ashes*, green sand, or by, say, 100 lbs. of the *Potash* of Commerce.

2. SAMPLE OF SHELL MARL.—From the appearance and touch of the sample of *Shell Marl* which our correspondent sent us, we feel no hesitancy in stating that it is eminently rich in calcareous matter. It contains we judge full fifty per cent. of the carbonate of *lime*; what else it may contain can only be tested by submitting it to the test of analysis, and as he has "inexhaustible deposits" of it, he should not hesitate a moment in incurring the necessary expense to have it analyzed. *Oyster Shells* usually contain upwards of 95 per cent. of the carbonate of *lime*, near 2 per cent. of the phosphate of *lime*, besides insoluble animal matter, and are, therefore, most use-

ful when calcined for agricultural purposes. The specimen of shells before us have been so reduced by time, as not to require burning, as in their present condition they are in fact in a carbonate state, available as an improver of the soil, and may very advantageously be applied to any "light," or heavy land, that Mr. Childs may have that needs liming. If the "light land," of which he speaks has not been recently limed, he may apply a hundred bushels of the marl to the acre. It should be applied after the ground is ploughed, and then be harrowed in. As the *lime* this marl contains is in a carbonate form, it would not, of course, act as promptly as freshly slacked lime, but will ultimately effect as permanent melioration as it would. If Mr. Childs has any lands in grass, that he designs to put in culture, either wheat, corn, rye or tobacco, next year, let him after he cuts his grass this summer, put on two hundred bushels to the acre, let it remain thereon until plowing time next year, and he will find its action upon the crop most sensible and beneficial. We would rather have such deposits of shell marl on a farm of ours, than so many gold mines. To him, if properly used, they will prove invaluable resources.

CUTTING UNRIPE GRAIN.

The following article from a correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph, who styles himself "A Practical Farmer," we transfer to our columns at this time, for the purpose of calling the attention of our farmers to the importance of testing the question, as to the proper time for cutting grain. We hope such experiments will be made and the results reported to us for insertion and preservation in the pages of the "*American Farmer*," as will hereafter be found valuable to the agriculturists of our land:

In volume 20, of "*British Husbandry*," pages 126-7. it is asserted that "the question has been some time agitated, regarding the state of ripeness in which grain should be reaped," and that it has been recommended as a general rule of practice, "to cut down the crops before the uppermost grains can be shaken out."

All things considered, it would appear to be the most judicious plan to have the grain reaped before it has become fully ripe; but in this practice a medium source is probably safer than extremes; for, although the grain if permitted to become too ripe, will assume a dull, husky hue, in the sample—yet, if not ripened enough, it will shrivel in the drying.

CADET DE VAUX remarks that "Corn, (grain) reaped eight days before the usual time, has the grain longer, finer, and better calculated to resist the attacks of the weevil. An equal quantity of the grain thus reaped, with grain reaped at maturity, gave more bread, and of a better quality." The proper time for reaping, according to this distinguished author, is that "when the grain, on being passed between the fingers, has a doughy appearance, like a crumb of bread, just hot from the oven."

LONDON, whose remarks on all topics associated with theoretical or practical farming, are deserving of the highest respect, says that in harvesting wheat "the best and most experienced farmers in England

and on the Continent, agree that it should be cut before it becomes fully ripe. When this is the case, the loss is considerable both in the field and in the stack-yard."

According to VON THAER, "grain that has become fully matured, in the field, produces inferior flour;" and in the "REPORTS ON SELECT FARMS," in reference to the "Scorsely Farm," managed by C. HOWARD, it is remarked that "Wheat ought never to be allowed to remain uncut till it is fully ripe. Experiments, easily made, will prove to every cultivator of it, that by permitting it to stand till the straw has lost its succulency, he gains nothing in plumpness or bulk of grain, but loses much in color and pureness of skin, beside which he incurs the risk of shelling by the high winds, or by its being cut under the influence of a burning sun. When fully ripened by standing in the stook, no dry hour should be lost in getting it well secured."

The following, from a distinguished agricultural friend and correspondent, affords a practical and very satisfactory corroboration of the above theory, as it comes from one whose whole life has been benevolently devoted to the advancement of the great interests of Agriculture, and whose statements, however contrary to the preconceived and incondite "notions" of the old regime farmers, are beyond a doubt.

"Some years since," says the authority alluded to, "circumstances rendered it necessary for me to cut a road through a field of Wheat in order to gain admittance to a piece of low land on which there was a crop of wild grass, which I was desirous of cutting as a winter seed for sheep. The wheat, at the time of cutting, was so green that I presumed it of no value, except as fodder. It was, however, by my directions, spread on the grass-stubble, and on examining it, four days subsequent to the cutting, I was surprised to find the kernels very plump and full, and little if any inferior to that which had stood till perfectly ripe, in the field."

It is a well known fact, I presume, with most of our agricultural friends, that Indian Corn, if cut many days before it is fairly glazed, will ripen, and that too, in most instances, without any apparent diminution either in the quantity or quality of the grain. In several instances, which have fallen under my observation, during my Agricultural life, it has, when cut at the roots before the kernels had become fairly "specked," filled even more rapidly than while standing.—That the stalks afford nutriment in no stunted degree, even for some days after cutting, is fully demonstrated by the fact, that an ear plucked at the time of cutting will shrivel, and be very imperfect; whereas those that remain will "fill out," and become sound Corn, capable of reproducing its kind the same as though its maturation had been effected in the stand.

There can be no question I think but that the juices become thicker in consequence of the non-supply of sap from the roots; and, if the stalks are in a green and succulent condition, the quantity of the circulating and nourishing fluid, contained in the sap vessels, at the period of the Corn's turning, is doubtless, under ordinary circumstances abundantly adequate to ensure the perfect development and maturation of the grain.

As the fluid becomes dissipated, the deposition consequently becomes progressively more active and rapid, so long at least as the supply continues, or till the process of "filling" is effected, and which is unquestionably much more speedily effected, under

ordinary circumstances, than when the stalks are attached to the roots. It is customary with some farmers to permit their grains to remain in the fields until they are "dead ripe," under the presumption that if harvested before every particle of fluid has been extracted from the straw or haulm, the grain must necessarily be greatly diminished in weight and value; but this is an error. By early cutting, a very important saving is made in the article of straw, which, if cut in a green and succulent state, becomes excellent fodder for stock, and, if properly cured, and seasoned with a slight sprinkling of salt, is but little inferior to the best English Hay. Beside, grain cut in a tolerably green state, is not likely to "shatter out"—a contingency wholly unavoidable when it is permitted to stand until thoroughly ripe. In the summer of 1840, I had a piece of Oats on which I determined to test the experiment of early cutting.—The grain was heavy and well headed, and had not been attacked by rust or mildew. Eight days before the usual time, I cradled two swaths round the entire piece, the berries being then just in the milk, and the straw as green as at any period during its growth. The grain cut, was carefully made, and bound in small bundles, and on removal to the barn was so stored as to admit free access of air on all sides.

On threshing, I found the grain slightly deficient in weight to that which was cut eight days after; about two pounds to the bushel, I think, but the increased value of the straw, as fodder, more than compensated for the deficiency in the weight of grain. Had I deferred cutting two or three days, I have no doubt the grain would have been equally as heavy as that cut last, while the straw would have been but little depreciated by standing. The straw of that cut last, was wholly worthless.

THE FARMER'S WORK SHOP.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

That every man should be his own carpenter, smith, quack, &c., I neither advocate or approve, more than bare necessity, believing that all perfection in the sciences and the arts, are attributable to the mind's application alone.

But the Work Shop is my present theme,—those possessing one know well its value and appreciate its great convenience, and will join me in recommending to those who have none to build at once.

When finished, as order is the first law of nature, so should it ever be in the work shop,—have you a bench, screw, vice, grind-stone, and chopping block, conveniently arranged. A tool chest or fixtures about your shop to place your saws, axes, hatchets, hammers, planes, augers, gimblets, knives, chisels, squares, compasses, &c. and be sure to put each article in its place.

Have the house sufficiently large to pile away your materials; a thoughtful farmer will take time by the fore-lock, get his timber in time or select such pieces as will suggest their usefulness out of his rails, logs, and wood, and put away to season, have a corner or a box for old iron, and so forth.

By this course many articles necessary and convenient, can be made at odd times and rainy days that never otherwise would be, such as making and repairing carts, bodies, axles and tongues, yokes, bows, plows, harrows, gates, rakes, and in fact all kinds of farming implements.

I do not write theoretically, but practically—in my little shop of only twelve by sixteen, I have of-

ten gone, and spent many, very many hours pleasantly, healthfully and profitably. I confidently believe my shop and tools is about the best investment I have, having over and often paid its cost. Moreover, there is another consideration; you will find your shop and fixtures a great convenience to some of your neighbors, who may be too poor, and others who are well to do, but who have not the turn to build, or the time to buy, nevertheless good and kind neighbors,—“great country this, to lend, spend or to give in.” All communities are, as they should be, more or less dependant upon one another; to grant favors is pleasant to the good man, for we all want them in time, and reciprocal kindness binds the hearts of men in closer fellowship and love.

In borrowing, let us use carefully our friend's favor, and return as soon as we have finished, in as perfect order as we received it; to injure by bad usage, or breaking, and have him to send for the article, is, in plain language, not acting the gentleman, neighbour, or the honest man. Honesty, industry, and punctuality, places the capital of the rich man into the hands of the poor.

D. G. W.

Tracy's Landing, A. A. Co., Md.

TIME FOR SOWING ORCHARD GRASS SEED.

All agricultural works are not sufficiently explicit in mentioning the time for sowing grass-seeds. Orchard grass (time for sowing) is not mentioned in “Allen's Guide to the Farm.” It appears to me I have heard of its being sown in the fall. In the absence of practical information, I would sow at the time the plant would, if in a state of nature, propagate itself by shedding the seed.

A Correspondent of Hanover Co., Va.

Reply by the Editor of the American Farmer.

Orchard grass seed may be sown in the Spring, at the same time of sowing Clover seed on grain fields, at any time between that and the last of May—or it may be sown in the autumn, at the time of sowing small grain. Much of the seed, is injured by being kept too long in the stack before being threshed out, and hence the cause of its frequently failing to come up—hence the cause of its growing in tufts, few and far between. We think upon the whole, that, when sown in spring, it would be the best to sow it with clover seed. In that case, the intervals between the orchard grass tufts would be filled with clover.

Orchard grass seed before being sown, should be spread out on the barn or other floor, and moderately moistened with a watering pot; should then be heaped up and let remain in pile one day; then there should be ashes or plaster strewn over and mixed through them, so as to separate the seed for sowing. This treatment encourages the germinating powers of the seed, and makes them come up many days earlier, and, in fact, secures the coming up of many seeds which would otherwise perish in the ground. For an upland meadow, it is infinitely preferable to timothy, the latter delighting in a moist soil.

To secure a good stand of plants, it will require two bushels of seed, per acre, when sown alone; when

sown with clover seed, 1 bushel of orchard grass seed and 12 pounds of clover seed. The orchard grass is among the *earliest* grasses of spring, and the *latest* in autumn. When cut at the *right time*—just when it is coming into bloom—it makes an excellent hay—as a pasture grass it is reliable in all seasons—luxuriates in the shade, and sports at the intensity of the sun's heat. When mixed with clover, the latter is relieved of its power to hoven cattle. In a very strong ground, with a favorable exposure, it may be cut three times in a season—two cuttings may always be relied upon. As it flowers nearly about the same time as clover, it forms an excellent mixture with that grass.

BONE-DUST AS MANURE FOR TURNIPS.

HOW TO PREPARE IT—THE CULTURE OF THE TURNIPS.

The following questions having been propounded to us by a friend in Baltimore county, we take pleasure in replying to them:

1. “I desire to cultivate *two acres* in turnips this season, and as I am anxious to try an experiment with bone dust, should like to know how many bushels will answer for the two acres I propose cultivating?”
2. How shall I prepare the bone-dust?
3. How shall I prepare the ground?
4. How shall I put in the seed, whether best to sow them broadcast, or in drills?
5. How many pounds of seed per acre?
- and 6. How should they be cultivated?”

REPLIES.

1. In answer to the first question we say that 20 bushels of bone-dust will be sufficient for the two acres proposed to be put in Turnips.

2. The bone-dust should be mixed with an equal quantity of unleached ashes, 100 bushels of good loam, woods mould, marsh mud, or well-rotted manure, and 2 bushels of plaster. The whole should be thoroughly shovelled over and well mixed together. As the shovelling process is going on, the mass should be moistened so as to promote decomposition. When mixed, let it be made into pie and remain for two weeks. At the expiration of that period shovel it over again and make it into pie, and at the expiration of two weeks more, the bones will be sufficiently softened down for use:—or they may be reduced on the plan of professor Liebig, as published in our April number.

3. In our opinion, all ground destined for turnip culture should be ploughed *at least twice*,—once as deep as practicable, to be done with a good team—the second ploughing need not be more than 4 inches. Each ploughing should be succeeded by harrowing, so as to ensure the utmost fineness to the tilth. After the ground is ploughed and harrowed the first time, we would spread all the bone-dust compost thereon, and harrow the seed in *very lightly*, and finish by rolling.

4. The seed may be sown either broadcast, or in drills. If broadcast, the method as laid down above should be followed. If sown in drills, we would only plough in $\frac{2}{3}$ of the compost, and apply the other

fourth by strewing it along the drills before drilling in or sowing the seed therein. When the seed is sown, or drilled, as the case may be, it should be covered lightly and rolled.

The seed should be soaked in fish oil 12 hours, then have the oil drained off, and be mixed with ashes, lime or plaster, so as to separate and render them easy of being sowed.

5. If sown broadcast, 3 lbs. of seed will be necessary—if sown in drills, 1½ lbs. will be enough—the drills to be made 27 inches apart and 2 deep.

6. When the plants first come up, a careful person should go through, and sprinkle fish oil over them, with a mop,—this done, let a mixture of equal parts of soot and plaster be strewn over them *each morning*, while the dew is on the plants, until they get into the *rough leaf*. By pursuing this plan, the ravages of the fly and flea may be prevented. When the plants are two or three inches high, clean out all the grass and weeds, and thin the plants so as to stand 8 or 10 inches apart—repeat the weeding twice, at intervals of 2 weeks, and all the culture necessary, will have been performed, and we are very certain that the culturist's toils will be rewarded by a good crop of turnips.

The best time for sowing turnips, is about the 26th of July—they may, however, be sown anytime between that and the 10th of August, the nearer the first named period the better. Early sowing, besides ensuring longer time for the plants to grow and ripen their roots, secures to the grower an opportunity of resowing in case the plants should be cut off by the fly, a contingency which ought always to be guarded against by the careful husbandman. Before we adopted the plan of strewing oil over the plants, and subsequently dusting them with soot and plaster, we were compelled to sow 3 times before we got a stand of plants, which fact is conclusive, in our mind, as to the propriety of early sowing.

For table use, we believe the *Connecticut Purple Top* to be the best flavored turnip; though the *White Globe*, and *Large Norfolk*, will yield more bushels to the acre.

For the American Farmer.

EFFECTS OF IMPROVING LANDS.

I had intended sending you the enclosed copy before I sent it to the local paper of the county, but resident friends requested otherwise. Dr. Black was one of the early friends of the old American Farmer, and was, withal, one of the zealous friends of agriculture. His prediction has been so nearly verified that I thought the extract and remarks would be acceptable to you and your readers—on that account I have sent them, as the remarks apply as well to Maryland and Maryland farmers as to Delaware and Delaware farmers.

J. JONES.

Mr. Editor:—A few weeks since I received through the post-office at Middletown, from an unknown friend, a copy of the transactions of an ancient Agricultural Society, of the County of New

Castle. The friend who sent it will please accept our thanks.

This valuable relic bears date the last Monday of November, 1819, George Clark, Esq., Vice President in the chair; the meeting appears to have been the last one held by the society. The names of forty-nine members appear on its pages, of which number, seven only are now living.

The most interesting part of the transactions of that day, seems to have been the reading of an Essay by S. H. Black, M. D., late of Pencader Hundred—The subject, "the intrinsic value of land," is treated in a most able and satisfactory manner. The Doctor gave a deplorable picture of the Agriculture of New Castle County, as pursued by the farmers at that time. But poor as the lands of Delaware then were, and bad as the system of culture was, he believed that by a better course, *with a free use of lime, sowing clover, and plaster, and resorting to deep ploughing, the land could be made to produce, so as to pay an interest of five hundred dollars per acre, clear of the cost of seed and tillage*. In proof of the fact, he related an experiment made by himself on a lot of a given number of acres, which fully sustained his calculations, at the then prices, which ruled high, (it being soon after the failure of the crops of 1816,) and which were as follows:—Wheat \$2 per bushel; Corn 75 cents per bushel; Oats 50 cents per bushel. At the time the Doctor improved his lots, he paid \$45 per hundred bushels for lime, which was hauled ten miles from the kiln to the land, but just previous to the date of his Essay, he had lime offered him at 35 cts. per bushel. The Doctor ventured the prediction, that if he should live only twenty years from that date, he would be able to buy lime at forty per cent. less.

Land, in New Castle County at that time ranged from five to twenty dollars per acre. Since then, some of the best lands in the State which cannot now be had for fifty, were sold for less than four dollars per acre, and lime has been brought from the Schuylkill and landed upon our shores, at from twelve to thirteen cents per bushel. The Doctor also alluded to the morals of the country, and the effect a profitable system of agriculture would have upon the people in this respect. Several of his predictions have long since been realized, within the recollection of many of us. One of the most orderly and thriving villages in this county, of the present day, was, thirty years ago, considered dangerous to stop at.

Believing that the entire pamphlet would be very interesting to the farmers of the present day, but knowing that its great length would exclude it from the columns of a newspaper, I have copied off one of the last pages, in full confidence that it will be read with much interest by many of our farmers, who had not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Dr. Black, and who are uninformed as to the state of agriculture in this county at that period.

I was pleased with your remarks on the susceptibility of improvement of the lands of Kent and Sussex Counties. I have a letter giving information of improvements made by T. P. McColly in Sussex county, where he has taken thirty bushels of wheat from the acre—being an average of the whole yield, and this from land so poor a few years since as to be turned out as a common, in which state thousands of acres in the county yet remain.

Governor Tharp informs me that he has taken ninety-six bushels of corn from the acre, as the average of a field which was formerly an unsightly and unhealthy

bag. We have often heard of the large crops of J. Jenkins, Sipple, and Penniwell, and others in the vicinity of Dover and Camden.

Such improvers of the soil as I have spoken of, may well be considered as public benefactors; and had one such man (Dr. Black for instance) done but a tythe as much for his country on the battle field, as he has in the corn field and morasses of Delaware, testimonials of gratitude in the way of swords and public honors, would have been freely offered, and his portrait, perhaps, hung up in the halls of State. Yet with shame be it said that not even a Daguerreotype likeness of a tiller of the soil, could be had, even though by his exertions and example, he may have added millions to the wealth of the state and community. No testimonials of gratitude, no office of profit or honor can be given to the plain farmer, whatever services he may have rendered, or whatever qualifications he may possess.

But to recur to the subject, I have heard of one of those extraordinary, casual crops, sometimes produced when all circumstances of soil, seed, manure, and season, agree, which may here be noted. This was a case where the lot had been highly manured upon a heavy ploughed in sward of Ande's grass well put in. The produce was seventy bushels to the acre. We read of heavier yields in England, but I am one of those who think that as large crops may be produced in Kent as can be raised any where, if all things are favorable. The case above cited is an example.

Respectfully, yours,

J. JONES.

Extract from the Address of Dr. S. H. BLACK, delivered before the Agricultural Society of New Castle County, November, 1819.

"And, finally, I think myself warranted in the conclusion. First, That from the situation of our land generally, in this county, at the present time, when cultivated by the owner according to the prevailing mode, it nets him clear of taxes, repairs, and labor, nothing; and is not improving in quality or fairly advancing in price. And when it is cultivated by tenants, themselves, their families and stock must be deprived of a portion of what is justly due them, or the landlords must lose their rents.—And where rents are obtained by pressing as it were the vital blood from the occupants, more is lost in the destruction and wreck of the property, than is gained by the proprietor in money, or in produce; and consequently, that neither landlords or tenants gain anything; or ever will, so long as affairs remain as they are at present. Every cultivator of a poor soil on lease, being in fact, but a fashionable day laborer; and every owner of such land, if his only resource, no more than a splendid pauper. Secondly. That a very large proportion indeed of the prevailing wretchedness, disease, and distress, as well as the unhappy degeneracy of morals in society, may be fairly traced to the poverty of our land as their sources. And that, to sap the foundation of these gigantic evils in our country, and to prevent them from stalking abroad in open day, it would be well for all votaries at the shrine of humanity—for physicians, and clergymen of science, who are laboring, each in his professional way, to stem the torrent of evils which are hourly escaping from this Pandora's box, to devote some part of their time, attention and talents, to the cultivation and improvement of their soil. Nor would the noisy politician, or real statesman, be the one more likely to misspend his time; or the other less apt to receive the gratitude of his country, if found enrolled amongst the successful im-

provers, and cultivators of her soil. Adding to precept their example, thereby encouraging others to forsake their habits of indolent pride and aristocratic arrogance, alike dishonorable to themselves, and dangerous to their government. And to become peaceful, truly independent, ornamental and useful members of society.

"And Thirdly, That it is possible to adopt, and to practice upon such a plan, as will in a few years totally change our arable land, without additional labor in its cultivation, which shall be paid for an hundred fold, and the expenses all be refunded to the ample satisfaction of the improver; from a state of most abject poverty, to a first rate soil in point of quality. From being a useless burthen on the hands of the proprietor, to be a beautiful, permanent, and highly productive estate; giving wealth to the owner—the means of living to the laborer—business to the mechanic—food to the manufacturer—trade to the merchant—revenue to the government—comfort to the pauper—health to the people—morals to the neighborhood—a tenfold population to the community, and safety to the country."

For the essay above, which is but one page of valuable matter, out of 57, a silver cup worth twenty dollars was paid.

ON THE APPLICATION OF ASHES.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SIR:—I take up my pen to conclude my remarks for the present on the use of ashes as a promoter of vegetation and the best way to supply our soils with Silica of Potash, that indispensable quality to the successful and permanent improvement of the soil. But before I commence, permit me to call your attention to some few typographical errors in my last communication. In the April No., page 314, 1st column, read, "Soil fine sand with a small mixture of clay, Subsoil near the same, it would not," &c.—page 314, 2d column, 4th table, "product of 1843—40 bushels oats at 40 cts.—\$16—By product 1844 sale of Tobacco \$58."—page 315, 1st column, 8th line, for "deficient portions," read "different portions."

I deem it useless to give any further tabular results from the use of Ashes, as I think enough has been said in your paper to show their value as a manure—but to enquire to which plants they are the most serviceable, and which is the most profitable form to apply it, will be my present enquiry.

My friend, Dr. Muse, in the March No. of your journal, not only still holds to his former expressed opinion in regard to the comparative amount of Potash consumed by Wheat and Oats, but concludes he has settled the matter by a quotation from Sprengel. I have been disposed to give much credit to Agricultural chemists, but not to let one decide a controversy without hearing others, especially such authority as Sir H. Davy and Professor Liebig—I shall make a few quotations from Liebig's Agricultural Chemistry, and let the matter rest until the Dr. gives what may be thought better evidence.

Page 52, we have the following:

"Wheat will not grow on a soil which produced wormwood, and vice versa, wormwood does not thrive where wheat has grown, because they are mutually prejudicial by appropriating the alkalies of the soil. One hundred parts of stalks of wheat, yield 15.5 parts of ashes, (H. Davy)—the same quantity of dry stalks of barley, 8.54 parts, (Schrader,) and one hundred parts of the stalks of oats, only 4.42

—the ashes of all these are of the same composition. "We have in these facts a clear proof of what plants require for their growth; upon the same field which will yield only one harvest of wheat, two crops of barley and three of oats may be raised."

My experience and observation has confirmed me in what the Dr. calls an erroneous opinion—I have seen good and healthy oats grow in a soil which had been reduced in potash by the growth of wheat until it either suffered from rust or lodging until a good crop was very uncertain, and when potash was restored to the soil, wheat grew to perfection again, and I believe it is generally admitted that soils deficient in Silica of Potash, such as sands, will not produce wheat, but in some such soils oats grow to perfection, giving large crops.

The value of ashes for the perfection of the Tobacco plant has not been fully appreciated by most Tobacco Planters and writers on its growth, for the value of tobacco is much enhanced by their use, as may be seen by reference to Liebig, page 72 and 73—"A most striking proof of the influence of potash upon vegetation has been furnished by the investigations of the "administration" of Tobacco in Paris. For many years accurate analysis of the ashes of various sorts of tobacco have been executed by the orders of the "administration," and it has been found as the result of these, that the value of the tobacco stands in a certain relation to the quantity of potash contained in the ashes. By this means a mode was furnished of distinguishing the different soils upon which the tobacco, under examination, had been cultivated, as well as the peculiar class to which it belonged. "Another striking fact was also disclosed through these analyses, certain celebrated kinds of American tobacco were found gradually to yield a similar quantity of ashes, and their value diminished in the same proportion."

There is another part of the subject which I think is quite as important as which plant requires the most Silica of Potash, and that is this, which is the cheapest mode, and what is the best combination to apply it to the soil.

The Potash of Commerce is high and not very convenient to apply, and from a small trial I made last year on turnips, I am induced to believe that it will be found much inferior to ashes as a manure. It cost me in Baltimore $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound, and I applied 80 lbs., 360 lbs. and 800 lbs. per acre, on different pieces of land of the same soil, and put 250 bushels of ashes (which had been leached for 4 months) per acre on the same soil, and the turnips on the ashed piece was much the best, and I believe the soil is left in much the best condition.

I have made many experiments and still hold to the system I adopted ten years since, to give my land large dressings of lime and ashes, and then as far as circumstances would permit, follow with compost, clover, farm-yard manure, guano, and everything which contained vegetable or animal manure, feeling confident when my soil was well stored with lime and potash I should receive the full powers of all other manures which I might put on, but if the soil was destitute of either, much of my other manure would lay dormant in the soil and prevent rather than promote the growth of vegetation; and though I find my expenditures were large, my expenses were small compared to the profits, as will be seen from some of my estimates, and if any of your correspondents can show a better way, I for one will walk in it, for net profits are the marrow of farming. As I fear I have been tedious on this subject, I will

draw this paper to a close, by subscribing myself,
Your most obedient servant,
R. N. MILBURN.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—By the following proceedings of this Association, it will be seen that the President has presented a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, recommending to the members of the Society to subscribe for our journal.—We feel highly complimented by this token of the approbation of our friends of St. Mary's, and we hope our labors during the coming volume, will prove our determination to deserve their good opinion.

The selection of Mr. Coad to deliver the address at the August meeting, is thus noticed by the "Beacon:"

"A better selection could hardly have been made in our county. Mr. Coad is not only a gentleman of an eminently practical turn of mind, but he takes a great interest in everything pertaining to the science of Agriculture, and is moreover one of the best read farmers amongst us. Our citizens may expect from him an able and instructive address."

MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At an adjourned meeting of the St. Mary's County Agricultural Society, held at the Court House, in Leonard Town, on Tuesday, the 9th of May—present,

H. G. S. KEY, President,
and E. L. SPALDING, Secretary—

the following proceedings were had:

On motion, it was resolved, that a suitable person be appointed to deliver an address before the Society on the first Tuesday in August Court; whereupon, GEORGE D. COAD, Esq., was chosen to deliver said Address.

The following preamble and resolution, prepared by the President, were then submitted to the meeting and unanimously adopted:

Whereas Agriculture, like all other arts, requires research as well as due industry and attention to all that appertains thereto, and to be properly appreciated, intelligent direction to inquiry must be given to enable us to enter the race of improvement that marks the melioration of the present day—

Therefore, Resolved, by the Agricultural Society of St. Mary's County, that the members of this Society are hereby advised to subscribe to the instructive and well conducted "American Farmer," and are requested to urge its support and circulation to our fellow-citizens generally, or such other agricultural paper as they may prefer.

The following resolution was also submitted to the meeting by GEORGE D. COAD, Esq., and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That an adjourned meeting of this society be held on the second Tuesday of June, for the purpose of receiving and considering the reports of the District Committees, as directed to be made by the 7th art. of the constitution.

The meeting thereupon adjourned.

H. G. S. KEY, President.

E. L. SPALDING, Secretary.

TIRE NOT IN GOOD WORKS.—Some few years since your readers were both gratified and instructed by the communications of Mr. A. Shriver,—who, if I mistake not, is one of our most successful farmers, —and if he is not wearied of well-doing I should like to hear from him again. Please insert this, and oblige
A MARYLAND SUBSCRIBER.

FARMER'S CLUB.—DELAWARE.

The "Farmer's Club," held its regular monthly meeting at Dr. Thomson's residence.

It was remarked that Mr. Affleck of Mississippi, in an interesting article furnished to De Bow's Review, an ably conducted Southern periodical, on the subject of the Cherokee Rose as being suitable for live fences, expressed the opinion that though an evergreen at the South, it would stand our Northern winters. Mr. Holcomb said that he understood Gen. Brandon, of Mississippi, had sent a year or two back, several hundred young plants to Mr. Geo. Law, of Baltimore, but had not heard how they succeeded.* Dr. Thomson observed, there was no doubt of their standing the winters of Baltimore or Delaware, that he had a shrub obtained of Mr. Landreth, then on his grounds, which had been there two or three years. According to Mr. Affleck's accounts it is being extensively used in the Southern States, as a live fence, plantations in the neighborhood of Natchez, as well as in parts of Louisiana, being fenced with it, and nothing can exceed its beauty and utility as a fence. Doubts were expressed by the club whether it was as well adapted as the Osage Orange, for more Northern latitudes. Mr. Holcomb remarked that in a Southern and Western trip he had recently taken, he had made many inquiries, and what personal examinations he was able to, as to the fitness of this latter shrub for fences; he was of opinion that it would at no distant day constitute the principal fences in the Western, Middle, and perhaps Northern States. Unlike the New Castle thorn, it seemed to grow on almost any soil. You might plant the seed, drilling it as you would a row of corn, the hedge required no bank to it. They were bringing the seed from Texas, and the Red River Country by hundreds of bushels. One bushel will enclose 64 acres. For the Western prairies it would prove invaluable, and scarcely less so to us, where fencing material is so high. Common Cedar Rails are now selling for eight dollars a hundred with us.

Dr. Thomson.—I have plants two years old, of the Osage Orange, in my garden; I wish the club to examine them, and I wish to present them with specimens of them. This subject of live fences is one of vast importance—second to no other in the whole range of Agricultural economy. Several years back the late Dr. Gibbons, Dr. Darlington of West Chester and myself, at the instance of some of our Western Agricultural friends, acted as a committee in investigating and reporting, upon the value of the New Castle and Virginia Thorn for live fences. Our report was unfavorable to their general use. From what I have seen of the Osage Orange, and what I have heard of its habits, its hardness as a shrub, its thriftiness of growth, I incline to think with Mr. Holcomb, that it is likely to furnish with live fences, vast rural districts of our country.

Mr. Sawdon.—(Having carefully examined the shrub.) The thorn very much resembles the English Hawthorn at the same age,—it is well covered with thorns. I see no reason why it should not make a good fence.

Mr. Jackson.—I have started a young Nursery of it, and hope to have a good many plants ready by next spring.

[*Mr. Law informs us, that when received, the earth in the box was very offensive, and on examining the cuttings, they were found dead and rotted, which was attributed to the condition of the earth about them.—*ED. AMER. FAR.*]

Mr. Gibbons (an invited guest).—If the Osage Orange should indeed be found to supply the desideratum of a line fence in a country where there is so much timber annually destroyed, and such an immense expense incurred in erecting fences, it would take off a great burthen from agriculture, which according to the late Nicholas Biddle, is annually taxed in connexion with the building and keeping up of fences, in a sum that would almost embarrass the British Exchequer.

Major Jones alluded to a hedge of Osage Orange put out many years since in Maryland, by John Randall, Esq., Civil Engineer, and one still earlier was spoken of put out by Mr. Mapa, near the "Rising Sun," Philadelphia County, as also the Osage hedges surrounding the beautiful residences along School House lane, near Germantown.

In reference to the improvement in agriculture in New Castle County, within the last ten or fifteen years, the question was suggested as to what extent it had improved, what was the probable per cent.

D. W. Gemmill.—The improvement throughout of the county has been very great; it is difficult perhaps to fix the average per cent. but if we take the farms belonging to the members of this Club, with which we are all acquainted, there is no doubt that the production has been increased full fifty per cent.—Go back fifteen years and I have little doubt, that the agricultural productions of New Castle county have been doubled. Lime and Clover have been the great agents.

B. Jackson.—If you select particular farms, the increase has been two or three hundred, instead of fifty per cent.; fifty may approach an average for the county. As Mr. Gemmill says, lime and clover, and an improved husbandry—better ploughing—better preparation of the ground—more system, more care of stock, more economy of manures, have all contributed.

Major Jones.—The increase in the value of real estate has been somewhat in proportion to its increased productions; by an improved husbandry, the capital, while yielding twice its former income, has itself been doubled in amount.

Major Andrews.—Suppose this so, that the improvement has been progressive to this time, how much farther may we improve to advantage? At an agricultural party at Sir Robert Peel's, as reported in the "Farmer's Library," one of the speakers, a practical agriculturist, remarked that "good high farming, was by far the most profitable; the starvation principle was a losing game; if we borrow from the earth, we must repay or we should soon find an empty exchequer." They have better markets and cheaper labor than we have, and can afford greater outlay, still I think we may go on improving as yet.

Mr. Jackson.—Yes, very far beyond what we are at present.

Mr. Gemmill.—I should have no fear of using capital in improving the best of our land still farther, by the judicious use of lime, &c. I say judicious, for I know some instances, where land has been injured by the injudicious use of lime.

Mr. Sawdon.—We may go on improving for a quarter of a century, and then be behind the improved agriculture of England; probably our markets will not allow our using the concentrated manure as they do, but lime we may buy.

Major Jones.—The merit with us, is not alone to make the two blades of grass grow, but to find where the one or two blades, as the case may be, may be

sold. England scarce emptied our granaries one year, and it nearly bankrupted her. This was a year of famine which may not soon make a market for us again.

CORN.—We received the following note, with the stock of corn noticed, from Mr. Tilghman, of Talbot, and have placed it in our office for examination.—It is quite a curiosity.

HOPE, Friday, 19th May, 1848.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SIR:—I send you a stock of corn which I consider a curiosity; it was raised by my tenant, Mr. Hinson Kirby, is the growth of 1846; I have often seen large ears surrounded by smaller ones all coming from the same stem; in this, however, there are two distinct stems, each having a *groove* of its own.

It is the first of the kind I ever saw, and although I have shown it to several "old and experienced farmers," have as yet seen no one who has ever seen a stock like it.

I had supposed it accidental, but Mr. Kirby says that in his crop of '47 he found six stalks like it, with this difference, that only one ear on each stock was perfect, the other being very small and not entirely filled out. I hope it will reach you safely, but have some fears of it, being very dry and brittle.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your most ob't serv't,
ROBERT LLOYD TILGHMAN.

ENQUIRY CONCERNING THE CULTURE OF TOBACCO.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

MR. EDITOR:—Feeling a desire to be informed as to the best method of raising Tobacco, I should feel greatly indebted to some one of the numerous tobacco planters to inform me through the columns of your wide-spread journal, what is the best manner of preparing the seed bed—the best location for it—what manures, if any, are used in the seed bed—the time of sowing the seed—when the plants should be set out—how far distant the rows should be apart—what the distance the plants should stand in the rows—how often they should be cultivated, and what is the best kind of plough or other implement—when the plants should be topped and what is the best implement to do it with—when cut, and the best mode of curing and packing.

AN AGRICULTURIST.

Fancy Farm, May 10, 1848.

THE TOBACCO CROP.—The Marlboro' (Md.) Gazette, in some remarks on the crops of the last and the present year, states that there will not be an average crop grown this year in Maryland, and gives these reasons for it:

"In 1847, the crop of tobacco, it is proved and admitted on all lands, was a very small one. Many planters abandoned its culture entirely, and doing so, some of them disposed of a part of their slaves, and now if they would again return to their former system of large cropping, are unable to do so—others see no inducement to make large crops this year, and are determined not to attempt it—while some are preparing for a full crop. Added to the inability and want of disposition to make a large crop, it is a fact that for several years past the great increase of the tobacco worm has rendered it one of the most precarious crops now raised. In some instances we have

known whole fields of tobacco to be almost literally destroyed by them. So that no "calculation" can be made, or even the most experienced Yankee "guess" what will be the fate of the crop of 1848."

LARGE CROP OF INDIAN CORN.—The field on which I grew 172 bushels of corn to the acre, and 2 two-horse loads of pumpkins, was on a clover and timothy sod of three years standing, and on white-oak upland—part of a farm that was considered run down. In the fall and winter of 1846, I fattened on it about 30 head of hogs, by scattering the corn on the worst parts of the same. About the month of March last, I gave it a moderate dressing of barn-yard manure. The field was plowed six or eight inches deep, so that in parts hard yellow clay was turned up full two inches deep. The corn was planted in rows four feet apart, averaging about one foot distant in the row. When first the corn came up, it had an unfavorable appearance, in consequence of the large spaces of hard clay; it looked very yellow in patches, but by degrees these patches disappeared, and as soon as the roots had penetrated below the clay, and reached the sod, it showed quite a healthy color, and made a rapid growth. I was careful during the whole of the cultivation, to disturb as little as possible, the sod.

A. A. MULLETT.

EXPENSE OF CULTIVATING TEN ACRES.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Manure and hauling, - - - - - | \$20 00 |
| April 11, 7 days plowing, at \$1.50 per day, 10 50 | |
| " 2 days harrowing, at \$1.50 per day, 3 00 | |
| " 30th, to May 4, striking out, - - - 1 25 | |
| Man 5 days planting, at 50c., - - - 2 50 | |
| Boys dropping, - - - - - 1 25 | |
| Three bushels corn, at 40c., - - - 1 20 | |
| May 15, Replanting, &c., - - - - - 1 00 | |
| Plowing some 4 times, 3 days each, \$1, 12 00 | |
| Boys harvesting same, - - - - - 9 00 | |

Cost of cultivating ten acres, - - - \$61 70
or \$6.17 per acre, exclusive of rent.

P. S. I cut the whole of the corn, and the fodder has been sufficient to save from eight to ten acres of hay, my usual consumption.—*Albany Cultivator.*

ALL RIGHT.—We have been forwarding circulars to a number of our subscribers who have overlooked their little dues on account of the "Farmer," and would take the opportunity of acknowledging the promptitude with which our hint has been attended to. We remarked in our circular that we were conscious of having given the full value for the amount of indebtedness—a subscriber in Washington county, Md., in forwarding his dues, remarks:

"I send you the amount due you and one year's subscription in advance—and must admit that I have received an equivalent for my money."

From a letter to the publisher, dated Fredericksburg, Va., we make the following extract: "As the present volume of the "Farmer" will soon be concluded, I avail myself of the present opportunity to send on the dollar in advance for the next volume, as it is always my custom to pay in advance for my papers, and by the way, I can say without any flattery, that your paper is the best of its kind published, and whoever sends his dollar to you, will get well repaid for the outlay.

THE AMERICAN FARMER.

BALTIMORE: JUNE 1, 1848

Terms—\$1 per ann.—6 copies for \$5—30 do. for \$20.

**TO WRITERS UPON THE SUBJECT
OF AGRICULTURE.**

\$100 in PREMIUMS!!

The admirable Essays upon the "RENOVATION OF WORN-OUT LANDS," which appeared in our present volume, excited so much interest—challenged such warm encomiums, and were so universally admired by the agricultural public throughout the country—were of such vital importance to a very large portion of the proprietors of lands in the old States, and aroused so general a spirit of improvement, that we have come to the conclusion to offer the following

PREMIUMS:

No. 1. A piece of SILVER PLATE of the value of **\$50**, to be given to the author of the *best* Essay upon the **RENOVATION OF WORN-OUT LANDS**; the cost of improvement, the time of effecting, and the permanency of said improvement when made, to govern the judges in making up their decision, all other things being equal, preference to be given to that plan which is least expensive and best calculated to ensure fertility and lastingness—the essay not to exceed in space, six pages of the *American Farmer*.

No. 2. A piece of SILVER PLATE of the value of **\$30**, to be given to the author of the *2d best* Essay on the same subject—the judges to be governed in their decision by the same principles as to cost, time, and durability, &c. as in the first premium.

No. 3. A piece of SILVER PLATE of the value of **\$20**, to be given to the author of the *3d best* Essay upon the same subject, the judges to be governed in their decision, by the same principles as in the cases of the first and second premiums.

The plate will be manufactured by Messrs. Kirk & Son, of this city, with suitable inscriptions engraved thereon.

The essays are expected to be based upon the knowledge of *facts* which may be stated therein, either thro' the experience of the writer, or from well authenticated data.

All essays, whether awarded premiums or not, to be published at the option of the Editor, the authors of the unsuccessful essays, however, reserving to themselves the right of withholding their names at their discretion.

All Essays to be either handed in or transmitted to the undersigned by the 1st day of September next. Each essay to be accompanied by the name and residence of the author. The publication of the essays to which the Prizes may be awarded, will be commenced, if practicable in the October No. of the *American Farmer*, and the PRIZES will be exhibited and presented at the Fairs to be held in the Fall, either in Prince George's, Talbot, or Montgomery counties, or at the Fair of the Maryland Institute for the Promotion of the Mechanic Arts, to be held in this city in the month of October—of which due notice will be given.

The Judges who are to decide upon the merits of the several essays will be announced hereafter.

We are impelled to this course, by the great desire which we feel to see the lands which were origi-

nally so fertile—which, for years which runneth beyond the memory of man, so liberally contributed to the sustenance and comfort of our people—once more restored to that condition in which they stood in their virgin freshness, and we trust sincerely that the object we have in view, will stimulate to action many intelligent minds among our readers, and that we shall be gratified in beholding a spirit of the most generous rivalry—an ennobling contest for the several prizes. The several essays to be addressed to

SAMUEL SANDS,

Publisher of the American Farmer.
Baltimore, Md.

TO OUR EXCHANGES.—Most of our brethren of the Press, do us the honor to copy very extensively from every month's number of our Journal. The character of our work, therefore, cannot but be well known to their readers—may we ask the favor of them to copy our prospectus, announcing the commencement of a new volume,—or if their space will not permit this, to give such a notice of it, as will call immediate attention thereto—The very liberal prizes which we offer for essays upon a subject which is of deep interest to every citizen of the old States—the *Renovation of our Worn-out Lands*—will, no doubt, claim a special notice at their hands.

TO OUR PATRONS.—As a new volume will commence in July, we would respectfully ask our kind patrons to be prompt in forwarding their subscriptions, and to accompany the same with the name of a new subscriber—we think we can promise a rich feast in our next volume. We have already heard of clubs being formed in various parts of our State—by increasing them to 30, it will be seen that a saving of 33½ per cent. is secured.

CLOSE OF THE PRESENT VOLUME.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW.

With this number our present volume will close,—on the first of the next month we shall commence a *new one*. Such being the case, we deem it a fit occasion to solicit *new subscribers*, and to invoke our *old ones* to lend us their valuable aid in furthering our object. We feel assured, that there is not one among them, who has not influence enough with his neighbors to induce one or more of them to take the *AMERICAN FARMER*, and that all that is necessary to ensure success, is to make the attempt. Thus believing, and knowing that the information imparted by our journal, is worth intrinsically much more than the subscription price, we feel no delicacy in preferring this request. Such an accession to our present patronage, as we have indicated, would enable us to contribute much more liberally in the embellishment of the next volume, though we might not be able to improve its reading matter, as our *Correspondents* hitherto, have been of that class of writers, that, to expect improvement would be to indulge in vain and illusory hopes. Nor are we singular in this appreciation of their talents, as their communications have elicited the warmest commendations—the highest eulogiums—throughout the country, and made the names of their authors as familiar in the fireside talks of husbandmen in the remotest parts of it, as they are

at home. Did we not feel proud of our correspondents we should be made of impenetrable stuff—which we are not—and while we are thus impressed with the great aid which we have received from them, we respectfully ask permission to tender them with our sincerest thanks—those thanks which spring from a grateful heart—for past favors, and to con-jure them, by every tie which should bind one agriculturist to another, to continue their generous and instructive labors, in order that their benefits, like the stream that never dries up, may continue to flow onward and onward.

We have reason to anticipate a largely increased addition to the contributors to the pages of our journal, and the steps which it will be seen we are taking to secure the same, are of the most liberal kind—determined to do our best to make the “*Farmer*” valuable to every one engaged in any manner with the cultivation of the soil, we can confidently appeal to our friends to aid us in disseminating it among their neighbors and friends, more particularly in the old Middle and Southern States.

A correspondent from *Eastern Virginia*, under date of the 1st of May, sent us a list of subscribers, and adds:

“These subscribers were obtained merely by recommending the “*American Farmer*” in terms it richly merits, and with no unusual trouble or difficulty. I am persuaded it would be easy to effect a very large increase in the number of your subscribers in this region, and profess myself at all times ready to do my part towards the accomplishment of this most laudable design. I regard it as a matter of considerable importance to introduce to the notice of our community papers upon the subject of Agriculture; and of these as best adapted to our climate, soil and geographical position, as well as from the ability and energy with which it is conducted, the *AMERICAN FARMER* certainly stands pre-eminent!”

We return our most grateful acknowledgment for this very substantial evidence of our correspondent's kind feelings towards the success of our journal. Such disinterested acts of friendship on the part of our patrons are doubly acceptable, first, because they give the most satisfactory proof that our labors are appreciated; and, *secondly*, because they evince a generous zeal in behalf of the cause of which we are the humble advocate. The high opinion which is expressed by our correspondent of the *American Farmer*, is the more gratifying to us as it proceeds from one eminently qualified to form a just estimate of its merits.

The example of our correspondent is most praiseworthy, and will, we trust, be emulated by others, as, without indulging in a single sinister feeling, we may be permitted to remark, that it is calculated to arouse a spirit of rivalry among our readers to see who can do us the most good, and, through the increase of the circulation of our journal, the cause of Agriculture.

☞ The suggestions of our correspondent will be attended to in our next and subsequent numbers.

THE MECHANICS' FAIR.—We have only space, at present, to remark, that the Mechanics' Fair, announced in our last to take place at Washington Hall, in this city, is now in successful operation; and we would urge upon those whom this No.

of our journal may reach during the week, who have not yet visited it, to do so forthwith, satisfied as we are, that they cannot fail to be gratified. A number of objects of interest to farmers are in the exhibition, which we may notice more particularly in our next. A Grist Mill of Mr. James Murray, machinist of this city, elicited much attention, as also did the machine for making fence, of Mr. C. Coleman, which was particularly noticed in our August No. of last year; and Mr. Whitman had a large display of Implements and Machinery, as is his wont on such occasions.

The *Maryland Institute*, for the promotion of the *Mechanic Arts*, intend holding a Fair in October next, which we promise, in advance, will surpass any thing of the kind ever held in this section of the country. It is proposed to hold an Agricultural Exhibition in connection with the Institute's Fair; and we seize the occasion to suggest, that the Agricultural Convention, proposed by Dr. Brewer, be held at the same time. More anon.

STATE AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST.—The Governor has appointed Dr. Higgins, of Anne Arundel county, to this important office, created at the last session of the Legislature of Maryland. We learn that Dr. H. will shortly enter upon the active duties of his appointment, and we have no doubt he will receive the cordial aid of the enlightened farmers and planters of our State, amongst whom his public duties may call him. The opportunities which will be enjoyed by this officer, will enable him to obtain and impart valuable information upon subjects of deep interest to the agriculturist of the State, and it will no doubt be gratifying to our readers to learn, that Dr. Higgins will make the *American Farmer* the medium of communication to the public.

P. S.—Since writing the above, we have received a communication from Dr. H. which will be found on another page.

THE BOWIE SEEDLING.

We are indebted to the politeness of that accomplished agriculturist, Col. *W. W. W. Bowie*, of Prince George's County, Md. for a barrel of his justly celebrated “*Bowie Seedling Potatoes*,” and while we return him our thanks for his very acceptable present, we may be permitted to add, that we have eaten of them and found them good, very good. In flavor they are mild and agreeable, as much so as the Mercer, which commands such well deserved popularity, if we may use that phrase—at every dinner table. This is a new variety raised from seed by Mr. B.—we think he deserves well of his country for having added so excellent a variety of this favorite vegetable to those pre-existing—and we are sure we will be excused when we remark, that for this laudable effort to increase the agricultural resources of the country, he is as much entitled to the claim of being a benefactor, as is he who “makes two blades of grass grow where but one grew before.”

We have distributed a portion of those sent us to sundry of our subscribers for trial.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND will hold its annual meeting at the town of York, on Thursday, the 15th of July next. The premiums range from five to fifty sovereigns. Members of the association have the privilege of a free entry—non-subscribers are allowed to enter on paying 5 shillings.

☞ “*Beta*” is received.

RUTA BAGA TURNIPS.

Those who may feel inclined to try the culture of this excellent root, we would recommend to lay themselves out to give the land a good deep ploughing early this month, to harrow it and let it lay till about the 10th of June, when it should be manured with well rotted manure, ploughed and harrowed to receive the seed. Ruta Bagas will grow if sown broadcast, but will do better if sown in drills.—Where drilled in half the manure should be put in the drills, be covered with the soil and the seed drilled on it. We allude to the subject thus early to afford an opportunity of getting the manure together. Where decomposed stable or barn-yard manure may not be convenient, such a compost as we have named for White turnips will answer for this variety.

EFFECT OF LIME.

We have a very interesting letter from Dr. David Stewart, upon the application of *Pure Lime*, and *Magnesian Lime*, which we shall publish in our next No. Dr. S. is one of the ablest analytical chemists in our city, and what makes his views the more interesting, is, that being a landed proprietor and having tried both descriptions of this mineral upon his estate, the facts which he details in his letter are the results alike of practical and scientific observation, and, therefore, the more to be relied upon. We regret that owing to the crowded state of our pages at the time of the reception of Dr. S's letter, we could not give it this month,—it will, however, prove an admirable beginning for the new volume, which we shall commence on the first of July, proximo.

A LABOR WORTHY OF PATRIOT FARMERS.—We could wish that some of our subscribers in the several counties, would take up and carry into effect, Dr. Brewer's admirable plan for husbanding the interests of agriculture—a plan so full of good, needs only to be taken in hand by a few patriotic, enterprising gentlemen, to find universal favor. See our journal, February number, page 246.

A GOOD RURAL HABIT.—A Spanish peasant when he eats a good apple, pear, peach, or any other fruit, in a forest, or by the road side, *plants the seed*, and hence it is, that the woodlands and road-sides of Spain have more fruit in and along them than those of any other country.

REMEDIES FOR HORSES.

HORSE OINTMENT.—Blyth, in his *Pocket "Farrier,"* gives the following recipe for making an ointment for a wound, bruise in the flesh or hoof, broken knees, galled backs, bites, cracked heels, and maulenders, or when a horse may be gelded, to heal the wound and keep the flies away:

"Take rosin 4 ounces, bees wax 3 ounces, hog's lard $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., common turpentine 6 oz., dissolve them in a pipkin with a gentle heat; then add two ounces of fine powdered verdigris, stir them together with a stick, and strain the whole through a coarse cloth, set it aside to cool for use."

HORSE OINTMENT FOR SPRAINS.—Take 1 quart of soft soap, 1 gill spirits of turpentine, 1 gill spirits of

camphor, 1 gill of the oil of Origanum, and 1 pint sweet oil; mix the whole together, and rub the sprained part three times a day for a few days, when, in most cases, a cure will be effected.

FOR DIFFICULTY IN URINATING.—Boil 4 ounces of the flowers of yarrow in half a gallon of water for 30 minutes, then strain, and add 1 oz. of saltpetre to the tea; when the saltpetre is dissolved, divide the portion into four parts, and moisten the food of the horse with one portion, each morning, for four mornings in succession.

COOLING SPRING DRENCH.—Make a tea of 2 oz. of the bark of the root of sassafras, and an equal quantity of spice wood, boil in half a gallon of water, dissolve in it 1 lb. of Glauber salts, and give the horse a pint of the decoction three or four mornings in succession on a fasting stomach, then give him gentle exercise for an hour before being fed.

FOR THE CHOLIC.—Boil 2 oz. of ginger in a quart of water, until the quantity has decreased one half, strain, and dissolve 2 oz. of soda therein—give this in a drench milk-warm. In one hour thereafter give 1 pint of linseed oil, and let the horse be moved slowly about for an hour. If the medicine does not operate in that time, he should receive an injection of Glauber salts, say $\frac{1}{4}$ of a lb. dissolved in a quart of warm water.

GAMA GRASS.

Dr. Darlington, in his admirable work, entitled "*Agricultural Botany*," which, from the beauty of its classification, arrangement, and intrinsic merit, should be in the hands of every intelligent farmer and planter, has these remarks upon this grass:

"Obs. This stout and remarkable grass is not very common on the Atlantic slope of our continent; but it is said to be abundant in the valley of the Mississippi. Some years ago, it was highly extolled by a few western correspondents of our agricultural journals, as an article of fodder for stock; but I have not heard of it latterly. The leaves and young culms may probably answer a good purpose, where better materials are scarce; but any one who will examine the coarse, hard stems of the full grown or mature plant, may soon satisfy himself that it can never supersede the valuable grasses, or the good hay, now in use—nor compete, in any respect, with common Indian corn fodder."

There is no one to whose opinion, upon any matter connected with agriculture and its products, that we would sooner defer than we would to that of Dr. Darlington—1st, because we know him to be qualified, by reading, practice, and love for the science, to give an intelligent opinion; and, secondly, because we know him to be truthful, and, therefore, incapable of exerting any other but an impartial judgment. But as we have grown the *Gama Grass*, fed it green, and made it into hay, or fodder, if the latter term conforms more to the nature of the grass, and know its worth, we take occasion here to say, in all frankness and sincerity, that we believe it to be one of the very

best, most relished, and most prolific grasses grown; that, whether it be fed green or dry, it is the most profitable grass that can be cultivated. The reason that the Doctor has not "*heard of it latterly*," arises, we suspect, from the fact, that its culture involves *more labor* than most agriculturists are willing to bestow upon the cultivation of any plant—it requiring first to be sown in a seed bed, the plants subsequently set out in rows, and kept clear until they take possession of the soil. Such labor in the stocking of a meadow, in a country like ours, where labor is often scarce and wages high, is not well calculated to find much favor, and especially as it so happens, that the American mind looks more to *present* than to *future* emolument.

The objection urged by the Doctor against the coarseness of the *mature plant*, does not hold good, as it is not in that state that it is cut, either for soiling or for hay. The plant, when grown on a deep, loamy, fertile soil, as it should be, and has plenty of manure given to it, is of rapid growth, allowing four cuttings of a season, ranging in height, at each, from 18 inches to 2 feet. From our experience in its growth, we have no hesitancy in saying that, if top-dressed after each cutting, *ten tons of good hay* may be grown on an acre in a single season, and that the hay will be as acceptable to horses or cattle as would timothy or clover hay, or Indian corn fodder. We believe, also, that it contains as large a percentage of nutriment as either of them, while it possesses this advantage—a meadow, when once stocked with it, will last for 70 years, an advantage with labor-economists of no mean consideration.

An acre set in *Gama Grass*, if planted in rich soil and top-dressed as suggested above, would, we believe, be sufficient to soil ten head of stock from the 20th of May till October; and we would ask—what other grass will do as much?

METHOD OF REDUCING BONE-DUST.

A bushel of bone-dust will weigh about 45 lbs.—to reduce that quantity into a state susceptible of being taken up as food by the roots of the plants, it will be necessary to dilute 23 lbs. of sulphuric acid with 69 lbs. of water, put the bones into a tight vessel, and pour the diluted sulphuric acid over them. Let the bones remain for 24 hours, then stir the whole together; let the mixture remain for a day, when it will be fit to be applied to the ground,—which can either be done in its then liquid form, or may be mixed with good rich loam, and spread on the soil, and harrowed in. For ground, poor in heart, 20 bushels of bone-dust will be required; where the soil may be fertile, half the quantity of bone-dust will answer.

In the preparation of larger quantities of bone-dust, the proportions of sulphuric acid and water above named must be observed, as also the method of reducing them. Bones, thus prepared, act more promptly than when applied in the ordinary way, of simply mixing them with mould, ashes, &c.

Although we have published much from time to time upon this subject, still inquiries are made of us

as to the best method of preparing bones,—to satisfy which, we have thought it our duty to give the above simple process, and in order that there may be no room for misconception as to the mode, or misapprehension as to the quantities, we have made the one plain, and given the measures of the others, so that the road is now clear, and all who list may travel thereon.

ANALYSES OF SOILS.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

The following statement made from a large number of analyses of soils, may be relied on as showing that the productiveness of a soil does not depend on the presence of a very large quantity of *any one* of its constituents, but upon the existence of them *all* in proper proportion.

A very fertile soil remarkable for its productiveness (particularly in wheat), may contain *any one* of the following constituents in the small proportion indicated in the first column, or it may have the large proportion noted in the other columns:

| | | | |
|--|--------|-------|-------|
| Lime, - - - | .292 | 0.69 | .76 |
| Magnesia, - - - | .145 | .16 | 1.00 |
| Potash, - - - | .005 | .20 | .65 |
| Soda, - - - | - | .02 | .130 |
| Phosphoric Acid, - | .02 | .246 | 1.77 |
| Animal or Vegetable matter, or Organic matter, } | .477 | . | . |
| Chlorine or Muriatic Acid | .003 | . | . |
| Sulphuric Acid, - | .008 | . | . |
| Silica or Sand, - | 64.517 | 72.00 | 92.98 |
| Alumina, (or pure clay) | 01.00 | 02. | 07.3 |
| Iron, - - - | - | 1.6 | 5.8 |

It appears from the above, that lime must exist in every good soil in the proportion of .292, and that .76 have been detected in a soil remarkable for its fertility. That .005 of potash is all that is *required* of this constituent—but that .65 have been found in a soil that was remarkably productive.

The following also taken from many accurate analyses shows that a soil may contain *any one* of the necessary constituents of a good soil in the proportion indicated below, and yet yield no remuneration to the toil of its owner, may be in fact "a barren moor."

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|------|
| Lime, - - - | 1.65 | 0.53 | 0.40 |
| Humus, - - - | 3.98 | . | . |
| Rezin, - - - | 0.42 | . | . |
| Magnesia, - - - | 0.28 | 0.60 | .16 |
| Potash, - - - | 0.05 | 0.15 | .30 |
| Soda, - - - | 0.034 | .06 | . |
| Phosphoric Acid, - | .198 | .19 | .40 |
| Sulphate of Lime, - | .04 | . | . |
| Animal and Vegetable matter, - | 2.47 | . | . |
| Chlorine, - - - | .006 | . | . |
| Sulphuric Acid, - | .051 | . | . |
| Alumina (or pure clay) | 1.94 | 2.2 | 1.6 |
| Silica or Sand, - | 93. | 92. | 95.8 |
| Iron, - - - | 2.22 | 3.9 | 2.2 |

N. B.—The samples of soil were taken 12 inches deep inclusive.

It is evident from the above, that .40 of lime may exist in a soil, and yet fail to give it fertility, or even 1.65 may be present and still the soil be barren. It also is shown that potash may exist in a soil to the amount of .05, or even to the extent

of .30, and yet the soil not be a productive one. The same is true in regard to *any one* of the above constituents of a good soil.* To demonstrate more fully the above, is annexed an analysis of a soil from the farm of Mr. Wm. Carmichael, of Queen Anne's county, Md., which usually produces fifty bushels of wheat per acre :

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Silica, | 88.80 |
| Organic Matter, | 6.20 |
| Alumina, | 2.70 |
| Alumina and Iron Phos. | .13 |
| Iron as Protoxide, | 1.59 |
| Lime as Quick Lime, | . . . |
| (Oxide of Calcium) | .23 |
| Ox. of Magnesium | .07 |
| Sodium and Potassium, | .28 |

Here is a very productive soil, and yet it contains some of the constituents of a good soil in a less proportion than is found to exist in a barren one. It obviously owes its excellence to the presence in a sufficient proportion of *all* the constituents of a good soil.

An idea seems to be prevalent that the fertility of land is always in exact ratio to the quantity of lime, or some other specific ingredient; and many farmers annually lay out large sums in applying it to their soils, where the same amount expended in other materials would very much more enhance the quantity of their crops. What those other materials may be can only be determined by exact chemical analysis. This proves more fully than the most elaborate essay, the utility, nay, the necessity to the agricultural interests, of an office, like the one created by the Legislature at its last session. Having been honored with the appointment of State Agricultural Chemist, I respectfully inform the agriculturists of the 1st gubernatorial District of Maryland, that I will commence my duties amongst them as soon as the necessary preparation can be made as to apparatus, &c. In order that the data obtained from chemical analysis may be as valuable as possible, I request all persons having specimens of soil to be examined, to note down carefully the following items:

The quantity produced per acre of wheat, Indian corn, rye, oats, or whatever else may be cultivated on the land—

The time of sowing—of gathering—the manner, and time of working the soil. What manures have been applied to the soil, and the increased production after their application—the land and its products should be *accurately* measured. The rain that falls during the period for cropping, and all other facts that may have *any* relation to the quantity of crops produced.

By your observance of the above request, aided by the analysis of soils on my part, I am quite certain a sufficient number of facts may be obtained to divest agriculture of the empiricism which hitherto has marked its pursuit, and render altogether or at least make it approximate very closely to, a science of fixed principles. All the ability which I possess shall be devoted to the attainment of this end.

JAMES HIGGINS.

*As I obtain a greater number of analyses, either from the works of others that may be relied on, or from my own labors, their deductions will be published,—want of time and temporary indisposition have prevented me from making them from the above, as fully now as I wished—they will be examined more carefully hereafter, and corrected should any errors be found to exist.

J. H.

DRAINING OF MARSHES AND WET ARABLE LANDS.

By being drained, marshes which are now unsightly sources of disease, and as unproductive as unhealthy, may be converted into beautiful meadows, at once the fountains of wealth and the guaranties of health. All who have such lands upon their estates, should, at once, set about to transform them into arable soils—the improvement may cost time, labor and money, but it will pay 20 per cent. upon the outlay in products, besides adding largely to the intrinsic value of such estates.

The facts here presented for consideration, are worthy of mature reflection. Mr. F. Pym, of England, a farmer of great practical experience, used the following emphatic language with respect to the value of draining lands:—"without that necessary operation—draining—the profitable occupation of heavy land cannot be carried on."

F. Falkland, Esquire, also of England, the author of several agricultural works of merit, thus sums up his views upon the importance of draining :

"In conclusion it should be observed, that every attention which can be paid to the preparation and application of manures will be ineffectual in rendering soils fertile unless due regard be given to the removal of excess of moisture by draining, when needful. When a soil is saturated with water, the air is excluded from the roots of the plants, and prevented from acting upon the manure; while the low temperature produced, by continued evaporation from the surface, has an additional powerful effect in retarding the progress of vegetation.

"To lay manure upon wet soils, is, in truth, to throw money away; but were draining universally effected, the whole of the now unproductive soil of the country would, to a vast extent, be rendered capable of receiving the benefit of the numerous modes of fertilizing it. Its returns are immediate, as well as compensative; and to hesitate to drain the land, is to hesitate to confer a benefit upon one's self, of which a strong proof has been lately brought forward in a statement of the profit resulting from the drainage of 467 acres, and the employment of the drain water over 89 acres of land, on the estate of Lord Hatherton, in Staffordshire—affording a clear annual interest on the outlay of full thirty-seven per cent."

THE YELLOWS IN PEACH TREES.—The in-pruning, or the shortening of the branches of the peach trees, and the application of ashes, is recommended as a cure or preventive of the yellows in peach trees. Of the efficacy of this treatment we know nothing but from report; but this we do know, that ashes is a most excellent manure for most fruits, and believe it to be well adapted to the one in question. If the disease proceeds from over luxuriant vegetation, the shortening of the limbs, if judiciously done, would serve as a corrective. It is said that this operation may be performed this month, and that the proper quantity of ashes, is a peck of unsifted, and double the quantity of leached for each tree. It is recommended that it be placed around the trunk of each tree. If this really be a cure, or preventive, it will prove a great desideratum in the culture of this delicious fruit, which, in certain sections of our country, has suffered so severely for years from the yellows, and, as the experiment is not expensive, we trust that peach culturists may be induced to try it, and report their success or failure, as the case may be, for publication in our journal. In testing its efficacy, it would be well to leave a few diseased trees untreated, as

by so doing the virtue of the treatment would be fairly tested. We believe that half a peck of unleached ashes would be enough for a tree.

HORTICULTURAL.

GARDEN WORK FOR JUNE.

Melons.—Thin these out so as to leave only two or three of the best and strongest vines in the hill, weed and hoe around the plants.

Squashes.—Treat these as directed for melons.

Sweet Potatoes.—Clean these and draw earth around the vines.

Setting-out Cabbage Plants.—Prepare your ground and set out your cabbage plants, taking advantage of the first rain to do so.

Cauliflowers.—The leaves of your early cauliflowers must be broken down to preserve the flowers from sun and rain. Plants of later sowing must be watered in all dry weather and kept clean. Plants ready for being transplanted should be set out the first rainy spell of weather.

Celery.—The plants of this delicious vegetable should now be planted out.

Peas.—Select a bed not too much exposed to the sun, and plant peas—the large marrowfat the best.

Asparagus beds should be cleaned of weeds.

Beans.—Plant successive crops of these in the beginning and middle of the month.

Lettuce.—Set out your lettuce to head, and sow seed for another crop.

Small Salading of all kinds.—Continue to sow seed of these throughout the month.

Radishes.—Sow radish seed.

Root Crops.—Attend and see that these are thinned out and weeded.

Beets, Parsnips and Carrots.—Seed of these may be sown during the first week of this month.

Endive.—Transplant your endive plants that are fit for setting out and sow more seed.

Okra, Tomatoes, Egg Plants.—Earth up these and keep the beds clean of weeds. Tomatoes and Egg plants may still be set out.

Peppers.—Set out your pepper plants.

Pot Herbs.—If your plants are large enough set them out.

Gathering Herbs.—All such herbs as are gathered for drying should be cut or gathered just when they are beginning to come into flower, and should be dried in the shade.

Weeding.—Let every bed or border in your garden, which may require it, be weeded.

Watering.—Bear in mind that the garden, where the watering pot is not frequently called into requisition in dry seasons, never fails to suffer—that the food of plants are taken up in a liquid state, and that water is necessary to prepare it.

Evergreens which may require it should now be trimmed up.

Fruit Trees.—If your garden fruit trees have not already been painted with the mixture of soft soap, sulphur and salt as recommended in spring, give them a coat now.

Irish Potatoes.—If you have not already done planting them, put in your bed of potatoes the first week in this month.

Early Turnips.—You may still put in a small patch for early use—for their management we refer you to our remarks in preceding months.

SOWING WHEAT UPON CORN LAND.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

The practice I suppose is not modern; the study of the practical farmer should be to make the most with the least labor. The oldest plan I recollect, was to pull the blades and cut the tops, take them out of the field, and plough in the wheat between the corn rows—the next practice I observed and have followed, was, to cut the whole of the corn down and shock up in rows, plowing between the shocks regardless of the roots—some move the corn off of the first land, so as to get the whole field in wheat, and shock up upon a land that is sowed; others leave it so, and put in oats in the spring—another plan now becoming fashionable, is to cut the corn and shock, as in the second description, and sow the wheat and plough it in between each corn row, leaving the roots unturned, rolling the whole afterwards. The plan that appears to be more practical than either of those mentioned, is, to plant your corn in drills, five, six or eight feet apart, and keep the land in good order, which will make your corn. The next and most important thing to be done is, to get your wheat in—you have then one crop made, and another pitched—you can then go on to save provender and secure your corn. I expect to leave my corn stalks in the field in the care of nature's analysing and decomposing powers, notwithstanding Mr. Goldsborough's and Bommer's plan to the contrary. Any information or suggestion from the Editor, or of the numerous readers of the American Farmer, will be kindly and thankfully received by your subscriber.

D. G. W.

Tracy's Landing, A. A. Co., Md.

DETERIORATION AND RENOVATION OF ORCHARDS.

In this part of our country the complaint, if not general, pervades to some extent, that our apple orchards do not bear as fair fruit, or in quantities as large, as they did in years past. The complaint is founded in truth, and that there must be a cause for it, is as obvious as is that other truth, that effect never came without cause. What is to be done to renovate such orchards? is a question very generally asked, and as it is an interesting one, we shall undertake to make a suggestion or two upon the subject, leaving it to the option of our readers to reject or improve upon them as in their wisdom may seem most proper. It is a fact that our market is mostly supplied by Eastern winter apples; now this state of things should not be permitted to exist, and as we think it may be remedied, we shall state the means which, in our opinion, can successfully be used to effect the remedy.

It has, unfortunately, been the custom with many, after having encountered the trouble and expense of planting orchards, of leaving their trees to their fate. This should not be. The trees from the time of being set out, until they come into bearing, should be yearly cultivated,—so ought they, afterwards, every few years—not in grass or small grain crops, but in such crops as may require row culture. Trees require as much manure as do any other crops, and the more care observed in cultivating the ground on which an orchard of trees may stand, the more healthy will the trees be, and the fairer and more abundant their fruit.

Trees that may have dead limbs on them, should, at the proper period have such limbs carefully sawed off, the surface of the wound smoothed off with a drawing knife or other sharp instrument, and the wound covered with a composition made of rosin, oil, and beeswax, in equal proportions, melted and mixed well together, into which, while warm, a small portion of spirits of turpentine should be infused, or with a mixture, made of equal parts of lime, clay and cow dung—give the wound two coats of this, and, as the last coat is put on, dust it with plaster or sand, so as to assist in resisting rain.

Trees whose trunks have moss on them, or a rough scabby bark, should be scraped, and washed with brine, or a ley made of ashes, or 1 lb. of potash and 4 gallons of water. This having been done, paint the bodies with a mixture comprised in the proportion of 2 gallons of soft soap, 1 quart of salt, 1 lb. of flour of sulphur, and 2 quarts of soot.

All orchards growing on lands that may not have been limed, should be ploughed at any convenient season, (care being taken not to plough so deep as to lacerate the roots of the trees) and dressed with 50 bushels of lime, broadcast.

In pruning, caution should be observed not to carry the operation beyond what may be absolutely necessary to let the air and sun pass freely through the branches—prodigality in cutting does more injury than not cutting at all—discretion and judgment must accompany the knife.

If it be not convenient to lime the whole orchard, mix equal quantities of lime and ashes together, and sow a peck of the mixture around each tree.

Where it may not be within the power of the owner of an orchard to cultivate it in row culture, he should late each fall dig in around each tree, for several feet in circumference, a compost made of scrapings of the cow yard, mould from the woods, the scrapings of the roads, marsh mud, peat, stable manure, bone-dust, and lime or ashes. This compost should be some months old, and be shovelled over every few weeks while being decomposed. With regard to quantities, an equality should be observed in all except the lime, bone-dust and ashes—of these they should be so apportioned as not to give more than a peck of the three last to each tree.

If it should be objected to our plan that it involves

too much trouble, our reply would be, that good fair fruit cannot be grown without trouble, and that he who begrudges it, had better leave the growing of fruit to those who are influenced by different views.

METHOD OF PRESERVING PEACHES.

We find the following recipe for preserving peaches, so as to retain their original flavor, in the *Boston Cultivator*. The process is a simple one, and as inexpensive as simple. We publish it for the benefit of our lady readers, in order that they may have an opportunity of testing it:

"Clean your peaches by pouring hot water upon them and afterwards wiping them with a coarse cloth; put them into glass, or earthen jars, cork them up,* and fasten the cork with wire or strong twine, then put the jars in a kettle of hot water until the atmospheric air is expelled from the jars, after which seal them tight with wax. Peaches prepared in this way retain their original flavor, and are as equally delicious when cooked in the ordinary manner six months or a year after being put up as if just taken from the trees."

*We question the propriety of placing the jars in hot water corked, because we believe that the expansion of the air, the necessary consequence of being under the action of heat, will occasion them to burst. We think that it would be best to place the jars in cold water, uncorked, and to gradually heat them to the desired point of heat—what that point may be, is not sufficiently explained in the recipe, as the term "*hot-water*," is entirely too indefinite to fix any precise idea upon the mind—what one would consider *hot*, another might deem only *warm*. If some degree of heat known to the thermometer, had been named, the term would have carried a definite meaning with it. But the idea of expelling atmospheric air, or in other words, producing a vacuum in the jars, corked up, by means of heat, is altogether unphilosophic, as a complete expulsion of the atmosphere could not be effected even by the aid of an air pump. By immersing those jars in hot water, corked, the air would become rarified, expand, and partially release itself by the demolition of the jars, but could not be entirely expelled by the process named.

[Editor *American Farmer*.

TURTLE SOUP.

We have often heard of *mock* turtle soup, and, like many others, have often eaten of it, presuming for the moment we were partaking of the article made from the Simon Pure Green Turtle, when, it fact, it derived all its *dignity* of flavor from a calf's head and the cunning of the cook; but who ever before heard of *Turtle* soup being made of *Spanish Beans*? Why, the writer of this has not only heard, but eaten of it with the gusto, not of an epicure, with an appetite and taste of the man keen and discriminating, because they had not been vitiated by inordinate indulgence,—who believes that the philosophy of health consists in stopping at that point which repudiates gormandizing, believing it to be the antipodes of enjoyment, and who looks upon moderation in eating, as the true safe-guard of every one who would preserve the energies of his body and mind in their integrity and vigor.

When we commenced this paragraph, our intention was simply to give the recipe for making a soup out of Spanish Beans, which is so like turtle soup, that very many who may eat of it would smack his

lips under the pleasing conceit that he had really partaken of the genuine article; but we find that we have unwittingly fallen into a fit of moralising, and as that was foreign from our object, we will dismount from our stilts, and give the recipe.

Take the usual quantity of beans, (the Spanish, a black bean) wash them, put them into the pot with the proper quantity of water, boil them until thoroughly done, then dip the beans out of the pot and press them through a colander, return into the water of the pot in which the beans are boiled, the flour of the beans thus pressed through the colander, tie up some *Thyme*, put it in the pot, and let it simmer a few minutes, then boil a few eggs *hard*, take the shells off, quarter the eggs and put them into the soup, together with a sliced lemon, and season with pepper and salt and butter, and you will have a soup so nearly approaching the flavor of the real turtle soup, that few, except for the absence of the meat, would be able to distinguish the difference. Those who like *wine* in their soup, can, of course, add it, so as to suit their taste.

We give this recipe now, as there is yet time to plant and mature the Spanish Bean.* It is nearly black, which imparts to the soup the color of that made from the turtle, is rich in the elements of nutrition, delicious in flavor, and, as we think, altogether a very superior variety—a variety that should have a place in every agriculturist's garden—if not in his field, as besides its excellence, it bears well.

*This bean is called the "*Black Dwarf*," and was, we believe, introduced into our country by that friend of agriculture, Mr. George Law, of our city, to whom the farming public is indebted for many good things before and since.

FLORICULTURE.

Prepared for the American Farmer, by S. Feast, Florist.

Fuchias and *Calceolarias*, in bloom, should be kept from the scorching rays of the sun, and carefully watered.

Dahlias.—To ensure a good bloom of these, plant them out the first week of this month, into a rich loamy soil, and stake them as they grow.

Camellias will now have finished their growth, and may be removed to the open air, placed in a half shady situation, and syringed frequently.

Cactuses should be watered freely; repot such as need it.

Azaleas should now be repotted, and watered freely.

Geraniums when done blooming, should be removed to the open air, in order to harden their wood for cuttings next month.

Achimenes should be repotted if they require it.

China Aster, and other annuals, which have been raised in pots or boxes, should be transplanted to the border.

Hardy Perennial Flower Seeds, sown this month, will flower next spring.

Scarlet Geraniums, if planted in the border, will give an abundance of flowers during the summer.

Roses which have flowered in pots should be turned out into the border.

Tulips and *Hyacinths* may be taken up, and kept dry until October, when they should be planted again.

Cyclamines should be kept in a shady situation and sparingly watered.

BALTIMORE MARKET—May 27.

Coffee.—Rio 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ a 7 $\frac{1}{2}$; Laguyra 7; St. Domingo 4 7-8 a5.—*Cattle*, Beef. On Monday there were 679 head offered at the scales, of which 300 were purchased by city butchers; 110 remained over unsold, and 269 were driven to Philadelphia. No sales of any moment have since taken place. We quote the rates at \$2.20 a \$3.50 per 100 lbs. on the hoof, equal to \$5 a \$6.75 net, and making an average of \$3 25 gross.—*Cotton*, upland, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ a 7 $\frac{3}{4}$.—*Herrings*, 4 a \$4.37.—*Feathers*, 33 a 34.—*Flour*, Howard street \$5 50; City Mills \$6; Rye \$3.75.—*Corn Meal*, Pa. in bbls., \$2.25; Balt. in bbls., \$2.50.—*Wheat*, Md. fair to prime red, 120 a 128; Pa. 131 a 132 for red, and 135 a 138 for white. 3500 bus. prime Illinois red, received via N. Orleans, sold at 136. There are no family flour white wheats coming to market. The sales of Pa. wheats last week, were about 10,000 bushels.—*Corn*, white 39 a 41; yellow 42 a 44.—*Rye*, Pa. 75.—*Oats*, 30 a 33 for Md. and Va.—*Flaxseed*, 120 a 123.—*Hay*, no demand for Eastern; country hay \$12 a \$13 per ton.—*Molasses*, no stock in first hands; P. Rico 24; N. Orleans prime 26 a 27; inferior, a small lot at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$.—*Pork*, mess \$10 25; prime \$8.25 a \$8.50; bulk pork, sides, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ a 4 $\frac{3}{4}$; shoulders 3; hams 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ a 4 $\frac{3}{4}$.—*Beef*, No. 1, \$9.50; mess \$12; prime \$12.—*Bacon*, shoulders 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ a 3 $\frac{3}{4}$; sides 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ a 4 $\frac{3}{4}$; hams 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ a 4 $\frac{3}{4}$.—*Lard*, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ a 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ for kegs, and 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ a 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ for bbls.—*Rice*, \$3 50 a \$3.75 per 100 lbs.—*Sugars*, P. Rico \$4.12 a \$6.37; N. Orleans \$40 a \$4.50; the extreme rates are 2 a 4.75 for N. Orleans; 4 a 5 for Cuba, and \$4 a 5.50.—*Whiskey*, 22c. for bbls., and 20c. for hhds.—*Tobacco*, the enquiry is confined to the better qualities of Md., ranging from 5 a 7, of which receipts are light. No shipping just now to Europe, tho' freights are low—we quote inferior and common Maryland \$2.50 a \$3; sound common \$3 a \$3.50; good \$6; and fine \$7 a 12. Ohio is not inquired for. We quote common Ohio \$3 a 3.50; good \$4.50 a 6; fine red and wrappery \$6.50 a 9; fine yellow \$9 a 11; and extra wrappery \$10 a 12.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE,

From the 20th of April to the 22d of May.

Kept at Schellman Hall, near Sykesville, Carroll county.

Taken at 6 o'clock, a. m., 2 o'clock, noon, and at 6 o'clock.

| | Wind. | | Temperature | | Remarks. | |
|----|-------|----|-------------|----------|--------------|------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| 21 | w | sw | sw | 37 70 65 | Clear | |
| 22 | w | s | s | 49 70 66 | Clear | |
| 23 | s | s | se | 54 73 69 | Smoky | Clear |
| 24 | w | w | w | 58 62 53 | Cloudy | Clear |
| 25 | w | se | s | 43 53 53 | Cloudy | Clear |
| 26 | w | s | se | 45 63 54 | Cloudy | Rain 1-8 inch |
| 27 | w | w | sw | 43 65 59 | Clear | |
| 28 | s | s | s | 40 63 69 | Clear | |
| 29 | s | s | s | 55 77 60 | Cloudy | Clear |
| 30 | e | s | sw | 50 65 59 | Cloudy | Clear |
| 1 | s | se | se | 49 55 51 | Cloudy | |
| 2 | s | s | w | 50 57 56 | Fog | Rain 1 in. Misty |
| 3 | sw | w | s | 54 73 63 | Clear | |
| 4 | s | s | s | 56 78 68 | Clear | Shower Clear |
| 5 | s | s | s | 59 73 71 | Clear | Shower |
| 6 | w | sw | s | 61 80 80 | Rain 2-8 in. | Clear |
| 7 | sw | sw | sw | 64 86 78 | Clear | |
| 8 | w | w | sw | 65 75 66 | do | |
| 9 | w | w | sw | 57 70 60 | Cloudy | do |
| 10 | sw | w | s | 45 60 56 | do | Rain 1 1-4 inch |
| 11 | sw | sw | w | 49 58 59 | do | Clear |
| 12 | w | w | w | 47 60 54 | Cloudy | Shower 1 in. |
| 13 | sw | sw | w | 45 68 63 | Clear | Cloudy Shower |
| 14 | w | w | w | 50 65 57 | Clear | |
| 15 | w | sw | sw | 49 74 66 | do | |
| 16 | w | s | s | 57 83 79 | Rain 3-4 in. | |
| 17 | w | w | w | 63 70 69 | Cloudy | Rain 1 in. |
| 18 | w | w | s | 56 80 75 | Fog | Clear |
| 19 | w | sw | sw | 64 83 79 | do | do |
| 20 | sw | sw | s | 68 83 75 | Clear | |
| 21 | s | s | s | 66 80 80 | Clear | |

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The title page of this work gives a good idea of its scope and intent. It is a comprehensive summary of farm operations, and will prove very acceptable to the great mass of our farming population. We are informed that 3,000 copies of the work have been sold since the first of January. It is well printed and profusely illustrated.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

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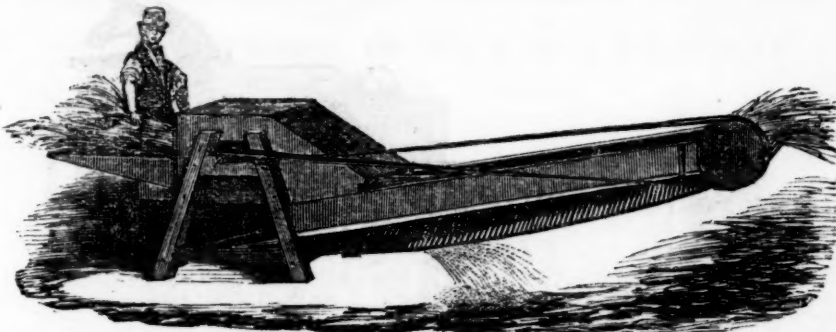
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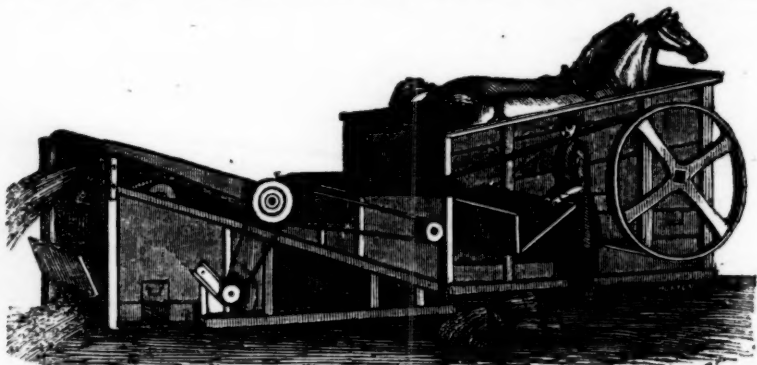
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